

Hafa Adai!

'Separate regulation of IPI casino, hotel will create giant 'blind spots'' PAGE 3
100% of DPS personnel now fully vaccinated. PAGE 5

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3rd stimulus payments delayed

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Department of Finance said yesterday that the anticipated issuance of the third stimulus checks this week has been delayed due to an "unusually lengthy" approval process of the

implementation plan by U.S. Department of the Treasury.

See **STIMULUS** on **Page 4**

'IPI current on all payrolls'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC has paid all the payrolls of its employees, according to acting Commonwealth Casino Commission executive director Vicente B. Babauta.

See **IPI** on **Page 4**

'No present threat of community spread'

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. officially confirmed yesterday that the CNMI has no existing threat of COVID-19 community spread at this time.

See **THREAT** on **Page 4**



COLLEGE CREDIT

Northern Marianas College interim president Frankie Eliptico, left, signs a memorandum of agreement with Department of Public Safety Commissioner Robert Guerrero, right, for the joint operation of a police academy and the training and education of police cadets. As part of the police academy, cadets receive college credit toward their college degree. The agreement was signed yesterday at NMC.

NMC

AT A GLANCE

As of 7pm, April 8, 2021

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	7,828	2	7,830
Recovered	7,662	4	7,666
Active	26	2	28
Deaths	136	0	136
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	144,121		

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	160	0	160
Traced via Travel Screening	124	0	124
Traced via Community Screening	36	0	36
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	26,131*		
Days since last community transmission	23		

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Saipan:	Tinian:	Rota:
Dose 1: 16,548	Dose 1: 953	Dose 1: 944
Dose 2: 11,856	Dose 2: 658	Dose 2: 735

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

Together, we can transform our islands' sites and village facilities to benefit us all

TOGETHER, WE CAN

By MIKE SABLAN

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Mike Sablan is vice president of Triple J Enterprises, Inc., a certified public accountant, and chairperson of the Domestic Policy and Recovery Committee of the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers. As an advisory council for Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, the GCEA's mission is to improve the quality of life in the CNMI for all residents.

The colorful concrete benches and tables along Beach Road were a hit for families that hosted their Easter Sunday celebrations last weekend. I am certain that beach parks and pavilions around the islands were put to good use for family gatherings and Easter Egg hunts.

For many years, the benches and tables along Beach Road fell into despair, many of them unsafe for public use and unsightly. Last Sunday, I saw a family of five, with bags of food in hand, settle into one of the newly repaired and repainted benches and tables. What a sight!

We are quite fortunate to be able to hold activities at this time as we continue to navigate the pandemic. More so, we have clean and safe facilities that are right at our doorstep with beautiful beaches serving as backdrops for Instagrammable photos.

See **TOGETHER** on **Page 4**

INSIDE



LOCAL

United Airlines sets its new schedule to support Guam's plan to reopen tourism on May 1.

PAGE 13



BUSINESS

Design Flower and Gift Shop is the go-to place for flowers and keepsakes.

PAGE 15



LIFE & STYLE

Celebrity zookeeper and animal TV show host Jack Hanna has been diagnosed with dementia.

» PAGE X



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Local

CPA awarded \$5.8M in seven FAA grants

A total of \$5.8 million comprising separate grants were awarded to the Commonwealth Ports Authority yesterday as part of funding the U.S. Congress provided in Coronavirus Relief and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2020.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said the grants are directed at the extraordinary costs to Marianas airports as a result of the coronavirus and to help CPA meet other financial obligations made difficult by revenue loss as the pandemic has stretched on.

"Because we are unconnected by road or rail to the rest of the world, our airports are especially important to the economy and daily life of the Marianas," Sablan said. "Congress has provided these relief funds to the [CPA] to deal with the current economic crisis and I look forward to more investments in airports and all our transportation infrastructure as Congress begins work on the President's plan to Build Back Better."

Four grants awarded yes-



Sablan

terday for costs related to operations, personnel, cleaning, sanitization, janitorial services, debt service payments, and combating the spread of pathogens are:

■ \$3,663,838 for the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport;

■ \$9,000 for the Pagan airstrip;

■ \$1,014,015 for the Tinian Airport;

■ \$1,003,863 for the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona Airport on Rota.

Three other grants were awarded to provide economic relief from rent and minimum annual guarantees to on-airport car rental, on-airport parking, and in-terminal concessions located at Marianas airports. They are:

■ \$8,836 for the Tinian Airport,

■ \$2,436 for the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona Airport on Rota,

■ \$121,975 for Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

The funds are disbursed by the Federal Aviation Administration of the U.S. Department of Transportation. (PR)

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'Separate regulation of IPI casino, hotel will create giant 'blind spots''

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The current form of a Senate bill that will separate the regulation of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's casino and its hotel will create giant "blind spots" where gaming proceeds will be inadvertently and wholly left unmonitored and unregulated, according to Commonwealth Casino Commission executive director Andrew Yeom.

For this reason alone, Yeom said, Senate Bill 22-09 should not be given further consideration in its present form.

In his March 16, 2021, letter to House Committee on Gaming chair Rep. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan), Yeom said the proposed bill in its present form would impede CCC's ability to effectively enforce its regulatory duties in monitoring the movement of funds in non-gaming areas of Imperial Pacific Resort, including hallways, restaurants and bars, the hotel and casino lobby areas, or even parking lots.

The Senate already passed Senate Bill 22-09 on first and final reading last February. It is now with the CNMI House of Representatives and Propst had asked the CCC to comment on it.

During a session on Tinian, Sens. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota) and Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) voted "no" to the bill. Sen. Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota) abstained.

Sen. Victor H. Bocog (R-Rota), who introduced the legislation, stated in the bill that the purpose is to clarify that the CCC shall regulate only the gaming facilities and activities of IPI and not its hotel facilities and other non-gaming activities.

In his comments that *Saipan Tribune* obtained yesterday, Yeom noted that it is the Department of Public Works' Division of Technical Services that has jurisdiction over the implementation and enforcement of the CNMI's building code and that CCC has never had and still does not have jurisdiction over the construction of the hotel and/or other IPI facilities.

Public Law 18-56 requires IPI to build 5-star facilities. The Casino License Agreement awarded to IPI provides further clarity on the specific deliverables of the 5-star hotel. Yeom said CCC was not involved in developing the CLA.

A new law, Public Law 21-38, made reference to the CCC having concurrent authority in regulating the interior design and cleanliness of the integrated resort. Yet "the CCC has not had any opportunity to develop regulations over these

areas as P.L. 21-38 is a new law signed only in the beginning of 2021," Yeom said.

He said this apparent jurisdiction is not referencing authority over the CNMI's building code, but compliance with the 5-star quality and other amenities required in the CLA.

Regardless of the intent of Senate Bill 22-09, Yeom said there is no doubt that, as presently constituted, it is overbroad and untenable given the peculiarities of the Initial Gaming Facility (Imperial Pacific Resort), which is presently undergoing construction.

Yeom said the Initial Gaming Facility has a main casino and various gaming facilities within the villa and higher floors of the hotel.

He said the proposed language in a section of a Senate Bill 22-09 would prevent CCC from regulating the hallways and elevators of the hotel area in-between the gaming areas, even though these are areas where casino employees, gaming chips, and gambling money would traverse in day-to-day casino operations.

"The result of the proposed language is that the commission would most likely not be able to fully regulate the gaming that happens within the hotel facility," Yeom pointed out.

He said this impediment may be counterproductive in guarding against money laundering activities, which may circumvent Anti-Money Laundering regulation.

As an example, he cited that

the proposed bill would prevent CCC from implementing AML practices such as requiring all employees of IPI—

both gaming and non-gaming (including valet parking staff and janitors of the hotel)—to acquire basic AML training

to collectively enable all hotel and casino employees to identify possible money laundering activities.

Yeom underscored the importance that CCC maintains jurisdiction over IPI's gaming

and non-gaming financial activities in order to adequately ensure financial compliance by IPI, particularly pertaining to accurate revenue tracking and its associated tax reporting and/or filing.



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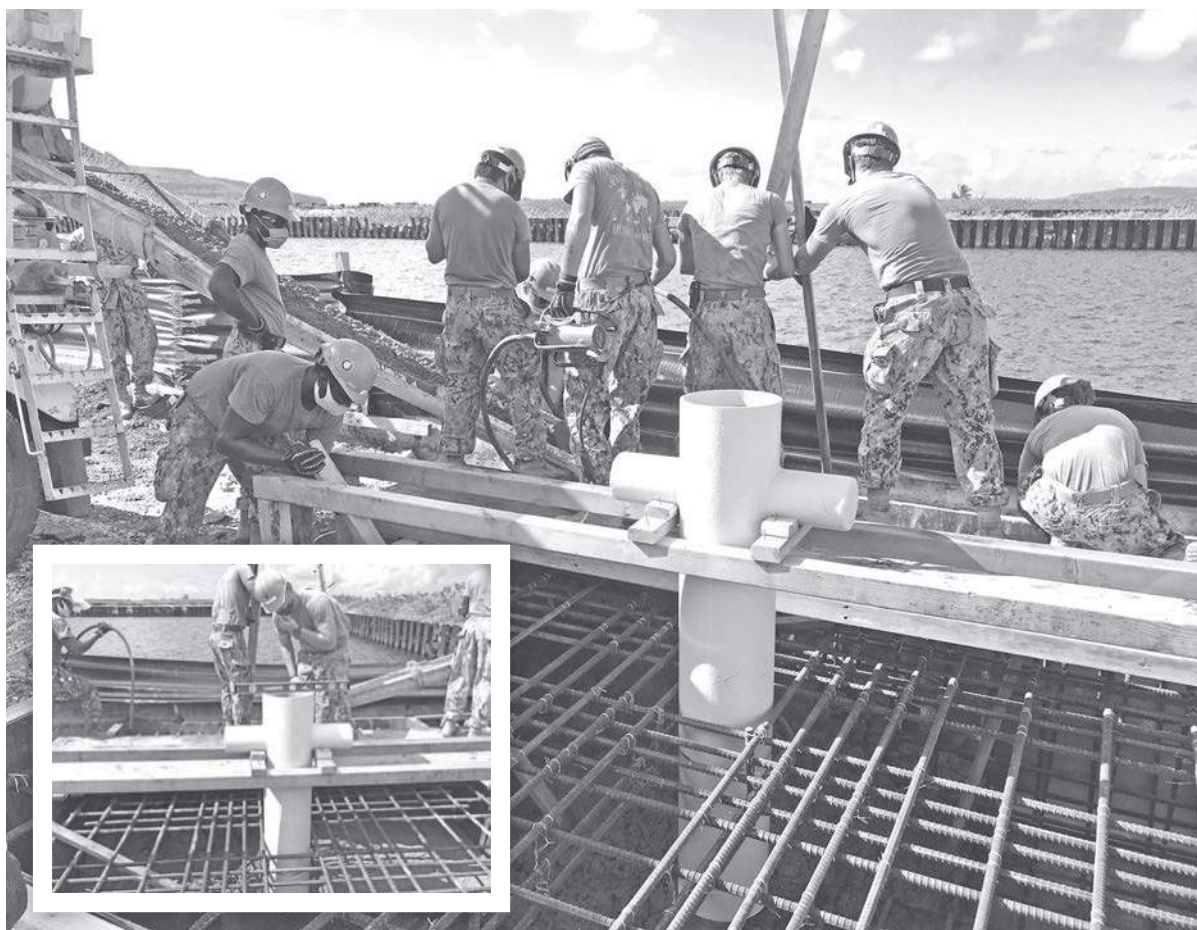
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PETTY OFFICER 2ND CLASS WENHAN FAN

IPI

From Page 1

In his report obtained by *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, Babauta said IPI paid for pay periods 5 and 6 with due dates of Feb. 26 and March 12, respectively.

As of March 26, Pay Period 7 with due date of that day was scheduled to be released.

Babauta said there were rumors that only partial payments were made on Pay Period 5. "As we found out, certain payrolls were held up because of insufficient time sheet submission, which needed extra time to verify the accuracy of the work hours. Nevertheless, they are all paid now," he said.

Early last month, IPI chief executive officer Ray N. Yumul informed IPI employees about the termination of employee benefits due to severe budgetary constraints effective 30 days from March 9.

On CCC's budget, Babauta said for February 2021, the commission's total expense was \$180,778.

Of this total monthly expense,

75.36% went to personnel wages and benefit, and 14.98% was spent on the board and other compensation.

CCC currently has 40 full-time employees, including its legal counsel, assistant attorney general Michael Ernest.

Babauta said their communication specialist has resigned to relocate to the U.S. mainland.

On CCC's bank account set up, the acting executive director said they had a conference call with Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig, whom they asked to help establish CCC's bank account, as required by Public Law 21-38.

Babauta said they reminded Atalig to make sure that CCC's payroll to employees will not be disrupted, and Atalig gave his assurance.

CCC is now transitioning itself to establish its own bank accounts, cashier, payroll, human resources, procurement regulations, and other things, after Gov. Ralph DLG Torres enacted Public Law 21-38 last January. P.L. 21-38 clarifies CCC's regulatory oversight of the Saipan casino industry.

THREAT

From Page 1

The last time cases of community transmission were detected was from March 12, 2021 through March 17, 2021, when 11 confirmed cases of COVID-19 were identified via PCR testing. The cases ranged in age from as old as 64 with an average age of 27. Seven of the 11 cases were male. Seven of the 11 cases were adults and were eligible for vaccination. Of these seven adult cases, one completed the vaccination series. This case was asymptomatic and was fully vaccinated two months prior to March 12, 2021.

For the 10 symptomatic cases, the presence of symptoms ranged from one to 12 days with an average of five days before laboratory confirmation of COVID-19. All isolated lab samples have been sent to CDC for review and sequencing.

No cases required hospitaliza-

tion and no deaths were recorded in this cluster.

Results of contact tracing

Since the identification of the first case of the cluster on March 12, 2021, contact investigation yielded 149 unique persons, of whom 10 were confirmed as COVID-19 cases.

Of the remaining 139 contacts, based on interviews, 118 were identified to have had sufficient levels and duration of exposure requiring testing for COVID-19. Of these 118, no additional cases were identified. However, the point source of exposure has yet to be validated. As of March 30, 2021, additional interviews of cases have not yielded any evidentiary links to plausible COVID-19 exposure sources. None of the 11 cases sought any kind of medical care at CHCC in the previous 90 days, but medical care to other facilities is being explored. The weekly community-based testing also examined approximately 1,000

people and has not yielded any positive COVID-19 cases.

While CHCC has not been able to pinpoint the exact source, the COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC feels, after an exhaustive investigation, that this cluster has been contained and there is not a threat to the community through undiagnosed COVID-19 community spread.

3 Ws

The numerous connections from a small group of individuals with a large family network demonstrates the value of prevention by adhering to the 3 Ws: wear a mask, wash your hands, and watch your distance.

While CNMI culture thrives on large gatherings, the 3 Ws were able to keep the spread contained. Further prevention can be achieved by ensuring all CNMI residents eligible for COVID-19 vaccination complete their series to achieve the necessary level of herd immunity. (PR)

TOGETHER

From Page 1

Several months ago, a majority of our community facilities were in poor condition after sustaining damage from back-to-back typhoons or lack of maintenance over the years. It was through the vision of our co-chairman, Jerry Tan, that the idea for the Public-Private Partnership initiative for the CNMI's sites began. During one of the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers' meetings last summer, we watched a video of dilapidated community parks and pavilions, public restrooms, condemned social halls, unusable baseball and softball fields and basketball courts, and many other facilities that are important to our community. These were the same sites that we presented our visitors as part of our tourism product.

We were able to see the true state of disrepair we were in after suffering major natural disasters. We ac-

knowledgeed the problems and decided to take action. For the past eight months, the GCEA, through the PPP campaign, has been engaging organizations, government agencies, private businesses, and other members of the community to come together to transform not just tourist sites but also key facilities in our villages. We know that *what is good for tourism must first be good for our people*. With our public and private partners' valuable support—to name a few—the Department of Public Land's Public Benefit Fund through the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, TSL Foundation, Marianas Visitors Authority, Saipan Mayor's Office, Department of Public Works, Department of Corrections—we set out to aggressively transform our home into a destination we could all be proud of.

The PPP initiative and the work that our partners do are aimed at providing safe and convenient facilities for all to use, protecting and enhancing our islands' natural beauty, and making the CNMI a world-class

destination—not through *Instagrammable* photos, but real and actual beautiful sites.

To date, 54 partners from the public and private sectors have stepped up and joined the destination transformation campaign and have adopted 48 sites. They signed up for a five-year commitment to help with continuing upkeep, and the CNMI is already reaping the benefits. The council is excited for what the future holds. When it's safe to open our borders, our visitors will be thrilled, too, as we will offer them a better CNMI experience. In addition to our rich culture, we will have a pristine environment they can enjoy.

I give kudos to the families that spent the holiday weekend enjoying the beach parks and cleaned up after themselves. Community volunteer and environmental champion Max Aguon, who conducts cleanups around the island, would be very proud.

TOGETHER, WE CAN take care of our island paradise.

STIMULUS

From Page 1

"As much as we have prepared our systems here to push out the stimulus checks, it is unfortunate that we have no say when there is a delay in the disbursement of funds from the U.S. Treasury in Washington, D.C.," said Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres in a statement.

Once the plan is approved, the U.S. Treasury will transfer approximately \$85 million to the CNMI within three business days.

Finance said the CNMI Division of Revenue and Taxation is communicating with the Internal Revenue Service under the U.S. Treasury every day, tracking the movement of the approval process and the expected transfer of funds to the CNMI.

"We want to assure the community that we are ready to push the button once the funds are officially here on island," Torres said.

The governor said they want to distribute the stimulus checks immediately so they continue to ask community's patience as they continue to communicate with the U.S. Treasury on the disbursement of funding.

Separately, Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig disclosed yesterday that 10,500 individuals will be getting their third stimulus checks via direct deposit, while about 22,000 will get paper checks.

Atalig said the Division of Revenue and Taxation has processed over 33,000 taxpayer's third stimulus checks, with 10,500 getting theirs via direct deposit.

As soon as the U.S. Treasury transfers the funds, Finance is ready to disburse the checks, said Atalig in response to *Saipan Tribune's* request

for an update on the \$1,400 stimulus payment.

"I feel for our community, especially for those who are in need of this stimulus," said Atalig.

He said he is hoping that their agreement with the U.S. Internal Revenue Service under the U.S. Treasury is approved as soon as possible so \$85 million can be transferred to the CNMI and Finance can get these monies to the pockets of residents.

The Division of Revenue and Taxation encourages taxpayers to continue registering for direct deposit on the CNMI Stimulus Portal to ensure payments are received as quickly as possible once the funds are in.

Finance said approximately 30% of filers have registered for direct deposit to date.

DRT will process the first batch of stimulus payments based on 2019 income tax returns. Additional batches will then be issued based on 2020 income tax returns that are submitted and processed by Aug. 16, 2021, 90 days after the filing deadline of May 17, 2021.

"If you do not receive your maximum third round payment in 2021, you may be eligible to claim the 2021 Recovery Rebate Credit when you file your 2021 income tax return in 2022," Finance said in the press release.

Atalig earlier stated that while they expect about \$85 million in the first distribution of the third stimulus payments, they are estimating to get over \$120 million.

Atalig said they're already prepared to submit a request for additional funds.

He said IRS gives the CNMI about 80% of their estimates as the first initial transfer.

100% of DPS personnel now fully vaccinated

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

All personnel of the CNMI Department of Public Safety on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota are now fully vaccinated, which Commissioner Dennis Mendiola of the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services praised, saying that getting vaccinated is what all first responders should be doing.

DPS public information of-

ficer Dre Pangelinan disclosed yesterday that there were no issues with DPS personnel getting vaccinated. DPS currently has 180 employees on Saipan, 53 on Rota, and 32 on Tinian.

This is in contrast to DFEMS, where a number of personnel are refusing to be vaccinated. In praising the DPS personnel for being vaccinated, Mendiola said he is proud of the officers who followed orders and got their

shots. "We need to lead the way in this charge of getting our community safe so I'm actually very proud that there's not much resistance with the Department of Public Safety," he said.

As for the 11 firefighters who refuse to be vaccinated, Mendiola said two of them have decided to get vaccinated. This means that nine firefighters, who are currently on administrative leave with pay,

are facing possible adverse action for non-compliance with the directive to be vaccinated.

Mendiola declined to provide further details as he waits for the final report on the adverse action, which is currently with the Office of Attorney General. He said it will be available today.

Additionally, because they are short on manpower, Mendiola said DFEMS has opened a new fire cadet academy. The training academy was supposed to start in March 2020

but because of the COVID-19 pandemic, DFEMS had to put the academy on hold.

"We just brought this back when we started seeing the light at the end of the tunnel. Plus now we're seeing a shortfall with [personnel]. ... The initial plan was supposed to be in July, but we decided to just launch it [now]," said Mendiola.

At the start of March, 23 DFEMS firefighters refused to be inoculated with the CO-

VID-19 vaccine, citing unknown medical risks from taking it as well as arguing that they should be given a choice in the matter without putting their jobs at risk.

However, on March 19 Mendiola said 12 have agreed to be vaccinated while 11 personnel will face adverse action for failure to comply. Last April 8, Mendiola confirm that number dropped to nine, with two personnel agreeing to be vaccinated.

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NMC

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MCS plans to expand its college-prep programs

Mount Carmel School will expand its college-preparatory programs for school year 2021-2022. The school's college preparatory programs are primarily offered to seniors and juniors in high school.

Many AlumKnights from Mount Carmel School who have gained admission to prestigious universities have successfully utilized the college-preparatory programs. These programs include Advanced Placement courses and Senior Seminar. The school's SAT Boot Camp, while suspended this past

year due to the pandemic, will be revived for the 2021-2022 school year.

In addition to these programs, the school is working with the College Board to diversify its programs to meet the needs of more students. These will include expanded tutoring and enrichment services, an AlumKnight mentoring program, and inviting more representatives from colleges and universities to conduct in-person and virtual information sessions.

Postsecondary institutions that AlumKnights have

gained admission to through the guidance of the school's college-preparatory programs include Harvard University, New York University, Rice University, Stanford University, University of California-Davis, University of Notre Dame, University of Southern California, and many more.

The Advanced Placement program is offered primarily to junior and senior students at MCS preparing for the college admissions process. The AP program, which is an introductory college course, allows

students to earn college credits earlier than the required time. Various AP subjects are available at MCS, ranging from Biology, Environmental Science, U.S. History, U.S. Government, Calculus AB and BC, Computer Science, and English Literature.

Senior Seminar, led by Tobed Smith, is one of the programs that all seniors are required to participate in. This program is categorized as an elective class that gives credit for each quarter. Senior Seminar is a mandatory course for all seniors that guides them



Mount Carmel School senior Brandee Hunter.

MCS

throughout their college application process. Smith's curriculum includes: creating résumés, gathering recommendation letters, prewriting personal essays, organizing student portfolios, and other aspects that lead students to a successful college application.

"One of our goals at MCS has always been to facilitate, improve, and create the most effective college-preparatory program for our graduating

students," said school president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero. "At MCS, students have access to AP-level courses, a course dedicated to college-success, and a wide range of extracurricular and volunteer opportunities can help expand their leadership skills."

MCS senior Brandee Hunter, who is currently taking AP U.S. Government and AP English, said, "During this pandemic, I'm so grateful for the amount of support and opportunities the school has provided me and my peers. With graduation fast approaching, I can honestly say that I have a clear direction for life after high school and I'm looking forward to solidifying my college plans."

Hunter has already successfully gained admission into Chaminade University of Honolulu, Portland State University, Seattle Pacific University, Seattle University, Manhattan College, University of Hawaii at Manoa, the University of Oregon, the University of Portland, the University of San Francisco, and the University of Washington.

With the SAT Boot Camp, Advanced Placement program, and the Senior Seminar class, MCS is devoted in helping students to develop for their future studies while ensuring a quality educational opportunity.

For more information about Mount Carmel School's Early Bird Special, call 234-6184 or visit www.mountcarmel-saipan.com. (PR)



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Department of Community and Cultural Affairs

Office of the Secretary

Caller Box 10007 Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950
Tel. (670) 664-2587 Fax (670) 664-2571



ANNOUNCEMENT

The Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Program continues to be open to accept applications for Front liners. Front liners are defined as:

1. Front liners/workers assigned to working on Covid-19 activities with direct contact of individuals for example: workers at testing sites, workers at quarantine sites, law enforcement assisting at testing sites;
2. Law enforcement, public safety officers, CNMI Homeland Security employees, emergency medical services working on Covid-19 activities with direct contact of individuals, including all individuals who work and provide medical services at the hospital or private clinics;
3. Retail cashiers, gas attendants, sanitation workers, bank tellers;
4. Child care teachers, caregivers, including employees in the educational sector.

Front liners who may not necessarily meet income guidelines for the family may still qualify. For more information regarding eligibility requirements, please call Genevieve Guerrero, CCDF Eligibility Specialist at 664-2576 or email at dcca.jguerrero@gmail.com or Joella Rosario, CCDF Eligibility Specialist at 664-2575 or email at ccdf.jrosario@gmail.com. You may also want to visit cnmicclp.gov.mp to download the CCDF Waitlist Application Packet.

/s/ Maribel D. Loste
CCDF Administrator

/s/ Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero
DCCA Secretary

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Alleged Peeping Tom arrested for reportedly stalking victim

On Feb. 21, 2021, at about 7:37pm, the Department of Public Safety received a 911 call reporting a stalking incident in the Chalan Lau Lau area. Police were dispatched to the scene.

At the scene, police met with the caller who stated that a male individual, later identified as Brandon M. Rangamar, 48, had been looking through the bathroom window while the female victim was taking a shower. Rangamar was arrested and transported to the Department of Corrections after being cleared at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Alternate Care Site in Susupe.

During a follow-up investigation by police, the victim stated that this was not the first incident with the same suspect. Sometime in November 2020, the victim woke up to Rangamar sitting on her bedside. She immediately told him to leave and, after several attempts on her part to make him leave, he finally left. Another incident occurred about a month later, the victim said, when she was cooking lunch in her home.



Rangamar

The suspect allegedly came in and hugged the victim from behind in a tight manner. The victim asked Rangamar to leave before she calls for police assistance.

On April 7, 2021, a complaint and affidavit of probable cause for the issuance of an arrest warrant for Rangamar for the charges of disturbing the peace and stalking was prepared and signed by CNMI Superior Court Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio with a cash bail set at \$7,500.44.

On the same date at about 4:46pm, Rangamar was arrested at his home in Chalan Lau Lau. He was brought to CHCC's Alternate Care Site for clearance before being transported to DOC where he was booked and detained.

If you or someone you know is a victim of a stalking incident, we encourage you to report it by calling 911. If you wish to remain anonymous you may call the CNMI Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272. Crime Stoppers pays up to \$1,000 for any information leading to an arrest. (PR)

Guam Cancer Trust Fund awards \$110K to Guam Memorial Hospital

The Guam Cancer Trust Fund approved at its monthly meeting on March 24 to award \$110,000 to the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority for use in fiscal year 2021.

The Guam Cancer Trust Fund is a special government fund created by Public Law 30-80 in 2010 that receives a percentage of taxes collected on tobacco products via the Healthy Futures Fund. The University of Guam administers and manages the fund, overseeing its distribution to organizations that provide patient-directed services in regard to cancer prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and other services that may be required to access treatment, such as off-island transportation and temporary housing.

The Guam Memorial Hospital Authority, which has been providing inpatient chemotherapy treatment and other cancer-related outpatient

services through its oncology program for 37 years, will utilize the funds to purchase cancer-related medications, fund a local oncologist, provide patient cancer care, and provide prevention training and education for families.

This award follows the trust fund's March announcement of \$946,122 awarded to five other nonprofit cancer organizations. Its fiscal year 2021 awards come from its \$1 million appropriation for 2021 and carryover funds from previous years.

The Guam Cancer Trust Fund Council comprises two UOG members—vice provost for Research and Sponsored Programs and professor Rachael Leon Guerrero, who serves as chairperson, and Associate professor Yvette Paulino—and community members Cathy Rivera Castro, Faraz Ouhadi, Peter Sgro, and Ken Leon Guerrero. (PR)

Dandan Road temporarily closed today

Both lanes of Dandan Road near the DMB Fish Mart in the upper Dandan homestead area will be temporarily closed today, April 9, from 8:30am to 12:30pm.

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. will be working on re-piping an existing service lateral on the road and motorists will be detoured to the neighboring streets for the duration of the waterline installation. The roadway will re-open for use soon after.

CUC continues to work diligently to minimize any inconvenience to its customers.

For more information, contact the CUC Hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). (PR)

Spring

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Easter Egg Events

PHOTOS By NEIL FAMA/ROTARY CLUB OF SAIPAN



Around 300 people gathered for the Easter Egg Event of the Rotary Club of Saipan last Saturday, April 3. Over 2,000 eggs were hidden all over Sugar King Park in Garapan for participants to hunt and win prizes. On the other side, high school kids competed in an egg decoration contest, with Pauline Viray winning in first place, Joanna Caguioa in second place, Irish Viray in third place, Na Dee Lee in fourth place, Hyun Min Cho in fifth place, Fania Staffler in sixth place, and Jun You in seventh place.

National Library Week



The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, Antonio C. Atalig Memorial Library on Rota, and Tinian Public Library are celebrating National Library Week on April 4 to 10, National Library Workers Day last April 6, and National Outreach Day last April 7. The theme for National Library Week (April 4-10, 2021), “Welcome to Your Library,” promotes the idea that libraries extend far beyond the four walls of a building—and that everyone is welcome to use their services. Gov. Ralph DLG Torres was joined by Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios Monday at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library for the proclamation signing.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Opinion

Hafa Adai! Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Breaking the wave: How to stop rising COVID rates from worsening

President Joe Biden said that Texas Gov. Greg Abbott made a “big mistake” last month when he eliminated mandated masks and ended capacity restrictions on businesses. Nevertheless, new COVID virus cases there have decreased 24% in the past two weeks.

That’s completely baffling to some New Yorkers, who, despite still diligently covering their faces in public and observing capacity limits nearly everywhere, have seen virus cases statewide shoot up 33% in the past 14 days—the third-highest rate of new infections in the country, behind Michigan and New Jersey. What gives?

Don’t listen to know-nothings who insist, against all evidence, that masks and social distancing don’t work. They do. But in other parts of the country, vaccinations are outpacing the virus’ spread. In New York, we’re facing new, even more contagious, mutated variations of the virus, which are spreading as fast if not faster than we’re able to get out shots, especially among young people who have just become eligible. That’s not translating into rising hospitalizations and deaths, but it is fueling new infections.

City health officials tell us two super-contagious mutant strains, the “New York” variant, labeled B.1.526, and the “U.K.” variant, B.1.1.7, now make up half of all New York’s new COVID cases. The vaccines are working, though, both against plain-old SARS-CoV-2 and its new cousins. Since early February in New York City, when vaccines became widely available to the elderly, COVID infection rates among people age 65 and over, the likeliest to die from the disease, have been cut in half. That’s why fewer people are needing serious medical treatment and dying.

But just because deaths have gone down is no reason to rest easy. So long as variants keep spreading they’ll keep mutating, evolving new defenses that eventually could render useless our miraculous vaccines. The Biden administration should consider sending extra doses to hot spots like New York now battling the variants. If this is a war, surge defenses where the threat is largest.

© 2021 New York Daily News

Border crisis needs more than money

Faced with a burgeoning crisis at the southern border, President Joe Biden has pledged to increase economic assistance to countries in Central America’s Northern Triangle. He’s right to do so. But

See COVID on Next Page



The casual racism of mispronouncing an Asian person’s name

The Los Angeles Times recently reported on the outcry following the LA theater community’s Ovation Awards, where organizers mispronounced the name of an Asian American nominee and displayed a photo of the wrong actor.

If anyone doubts the racially based sting that comes with such insults to one’s professional endeavors, just read the emails that rolled in to The Times after publication of our article. One reader said the Ovation reaction was just an example of “Asian victimhood.” Another called it a big joke: “I thought you were writing a sketch for SNL with your article yesterday; so ‘much pain and anger’ that wrong photo used and name pronounced incorrectly. Hahahaha—really, audition for SNL, use that article, your [sic] sure to get hired!”

One went the extra mile to make fun of Jully (pronounced like Julie) Lee, who was nominated for her performance in East West Players’ and the Fountain Theatre’s “Hannah and the Dread Gazebo.” Wrote the reader: “How do you say her name? Is it Jelly or Jolly?”

I was so disheartened to read these comments. The Ovation Awards’ snafus—and some of our readers’ reactions to the news coverage of them—are emblematic of the casual racism in the theater world and the world at large.

Mispronouncing someone’s name, accidentally or on purpose, at the very least demonstrates a selective laziness to learn the correct way to address or acknowledge a person. The name is perceived as particularly difficult only because it’s beyond the white European names that have been deemed normal. (For some reason, an effort can be made for a white person with an unusual name, as Hasan Minhaj explained while on “The Ellen DeGeneres Show” in 2019. “They’re always like, ‘I’m so sorry, I can’t pronounce it. Meet my son, Higsby Witherthrottle III!’” he said. “If you can pronounce Ansel Elgort, you can pronounce Hasan Minhaj.”)

When done willfully, it’s a conscious decision to weaponize one’s name—a deeply personal signifier of ethnic background and family lineage—against them, othering and invalidating them in a culture that already upholds white supremacy. This was the strategy of former Georgia Sen. David Perdue in referring to Kamala Harris, his Senate colleague and the Democratic nominee for vice president at the time, as “KAH-mah-lah? Kah-MAH’-lah? Kamala-mala-mala. I don’t know—whatever.” (Perdue’s move instead sparked a viral campaign in which people shared the origins of their names on social media.)

By **ASHLEY LEE**
Los Angeles Times



Ashley Lee is a staff reporter at the Los Angeles Times.

Such encounters sprout name-based microaggressions like “assignment of an unwanted nickname, assumptions and biases about an individual based on their name, and teasing from peers and educators due to cultural aspects of a name,” according to Ranjana Srinivasan, whose research advocates for the mental health of South Asian Americans.

People like my parents hoped to shield me by assigning me an Anglicized given name at birth. Making my name more convenient for others was a defensive move: to lessen the likelihood of being bullied about my race and to up my chances of blending in, belonging and being seen as equal to my peers.

“This is what it is to grow up as a person of color in a white-dominated world,” wrote Kelly Marie Tran in a 2018 New York Times piece in which she reflected on her parents’ adopted American names and included her Vietnamese name: Loan. “I want to live in a world where children of color don’t spend their entire adolescence wishing to be white. ... I want to live in a world where people of all races, religions, socioeconomic classes, sexual orientations, gender identities and abilities are seen as what they have always been: human beings.”

The Ovation Awards took place shortly after the documented hesitancy to deem the killings of six Asian women in Atlanta a hate crime instead of a sex addict’s “really bad day.” In the days that followed the attack—one of many acts of violence on people of Asian descent, which have risen significantly during the pandemic—these women’s names were repeatedly misspelled and mispronounced by the media. It all echoes the pervasive invisibility of Asians in America, where your name isn’t worth saying correctly, whether you’re an actor in an Oscar-winning movie or a slain victim of senseless gun violence.

I find it exponentially more disrespectful that this error was

See ASIAN on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Why do bystanders fail to intervene when they see others in pain?

By DOMINIC J. PACKER and JAY J. VAN BAVEL
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Last week, we saw another horrific anti-Asian assault on video. A 65-year-old woman was walking to church in New York City when she was brutally attacked by a man on a street near Times Square. The assailant said, “You don’t belong here,” as he kicked her in the chest and stomped on her while she was on the ground.

The footage from an apartment building captured the vicious attack, allowing authorities to identify and arrest a suspect. The video also caught the behavior of security guards who witnessed the assault from inside the building. Stunningly, rather than in-

tervening to help, one of the guards slowly walked toward the woman. Then he closed the door, leaving her alone on the sidewalk a few feet away.

Reacting on Twitter, Sherrilyn Ifill, president of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, wrote, “I have seen similar scenes from history of bystanders who turned away. It is a sign of danger for our society... We need to understand, what did these security guards think they were securing in that moment?”

This is exactly the right question. We think part of the answer is about identity.

Since the 1960s, social psychologists have been studying why bystanders fail to intervene when strangers need help. Among other factors, people are significantly more likely to assist victims if they believe that they share an identity — a common group membership — with them.

Crucially, it is not the identity of the person who needs help that matters but, rather, how potential helpers understand their own identity.

Some of this research was conducted in the competitive world of British soccer. Experiments by Mark Levine and colleagues at Lancaster University found that fans of the Manchester United club were more likely to help an injured stranger if he happened to be wearing a Manchester United shirt rather than the jersey of their arch-rivals, Liverpool.

This is unsurprising, perhaps. But it does not have to be this way.

The researchers found that if Manchester fans had been reminded of their love for soccer more generally (instead of focusing on their narrow allegiance to Manchester United), they were then just as likely to help a distressed stranger in a Liverpool jersey as a supporter of their favorite team. These bystanders expanded their circle of care if they broadened their identity.

The point is that the same person who is an “other” to us through the lens of one identity can become “one of us” when viewed through another lens. Nothing about the person in need of help has changed; rather, it is how we see ourselves that makes the difference.

In the Minneapolis murder trial of former police officer Derek Chauvin, several bystanders who witnessed George Floyd’s death have described not only the events they observed but also the feelings of grief and guilt that have followed. When prosecutors asked Darnella Frazier, the young woman who recorded the widely-shared video of Floyd’s death, how it affected her life, she said, “It’s been nights I’ve stayed up apologizing and apologizing to George Floyd for not doing more, and not physically

interacting and not saving his life.”

“But,” she said in reference to Chauvin, “it’s not what I should have done, it’s what he should have done.”

And it’s not just what Chauvin should have done, but also what the three other Minneapolis police officers should have done as they stood by for more than nine minutes while Floyd died under Chauvin’s knee. Why didn’t they intervene? As police officers, they had much greater capacity and responsibility to intercede than the civilian witnesses who are now plagued with grief and guilt.

The inaction of both the New York security guards and Chauvin’s fellow officers can be understood in terms of shared identities — and their absence. How did the security guards understand their identity as guardians in that moment? Who or what was within the circle of their protection, and why was the assault victim outside it?

Likewise, who did the Minneapolis officers think they were protecting in that moment? Not justice. Not public safety. But seemingly their solidarity as police, in opposition to an upset crowd of witnesses.

Social identities can cause us to extend altruism and care to people within our boundaries, but also to withhold our concern from people we think are on the outside. But these boundaries are not fixed. They are malleable. They can narrow, but they can also expand.

Bystander intervention training programs often focus on how to recognize emergencies and how to respond. But helping is not just about knowing what to do. It starts with whom we identify with enough to want to help, especially in dangerous or frightening situations.

And when it comes to those whose jobs it is to keep us safe, we need people whose solidarity lies with something broader than the building they work at or the squad they’re on. This, too, is a matter of identity. Groups can adopt social norms of inclusive support, and it is the responsibility of institutional leaders to ensure that law enforcement and security personnel understand that an expansive concern for their fellow citizens of all races and identities must be central to who they are.

Dominic Packer is a professor of psychology at Lehigh University and Jay Van Bavel is an associate professor of psychology and neural science at New York University. They are authors of the forthcoming book The Power of Us: Harnessing our shared identities to improve performance, increase cooperation, and promote social harmony.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Long live the Insular Cases

Thursday’s Saipan Tribune reports that a congressional resolution has been introduced, co-sponsored by Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan, denouncing the Insular Cases—a set of U.S. Supreme Court decisions limiting the reach of the U.S. Constitution in outlying offshore jurisdictions.

The resolution focuses on some obnoxious language in those decisions, but it overlooks their actual effect, which is to provide constitutional breathing room for a robust variety of cultural norms, values, and priorities to exist and thrive under a common political umbrella, instead of requiring one size to fit all.

Without these cases, for example, there would be no Article XII of the CNMI Constitution, protecting local land ownership; no equal representation for Rota and Tinian in the CNMI Senate; and no hope of any future arrangements protecting the CNMI from any other unwelcome U.S. constitutional provisions.

Indeed, the Insular Cases provided the flexibility that made the existence of the CNMI in its current form possible. There would be no Covenant, and no CNMI, without the Insular Cases.

If, therefore, as the resolution says, the Insular Cases have “no place in United States constitutional law,” that means the CNMI has no place in the American political family. If the Insular Cases are rejected by U.S. courts, then the Covenant, and the US-CNMI union it creates, must also be rejected, leaving the CNMI in limbo.

I don’t think Delegate Kilili really wants this, so I hope he will withdraw his support for this resolution.

Long live the Insular Cases, and long live the CNMI.

Jed Horey

As Matuis, Saipan

ASIAN

From Page 10

made during an event that celebrates the theater, an industry in which artists of color are already pressured to water down their stories, language and entire selves to be palatable for white artistic directors, collaborators and audiences. Amid an unprecedented closure due to COVID-19, so many theater companies have released statements to their patrons, declaring that Black Lives Matter and that violence against Asian American Pacific Islanders is unacceptable. But these boilerplate sentiments say nothing without meaningful action—which, at the very least, calls for pronouncing names correctly and getting photos right.

For the L.A. Stage Alliance to be so careless—especially in the diverse city of Los Angeles—is beyond reproach. It is yet another example of an awards body that actively diminishes the art form it claims to celebrate.

After the disastrous ceremony, 25 theater companies revoked their memberships from LASA, which announced Monday that it has ceased operations. I look forward to the day when the American theater values the contributions of its artists enough to know their names—all of their names—and it is no longer necessary to explain why people’s names should be pronounced correctly.

COVID

From Page 10

money alone won’t be enough.

The three Northern Triangle countries—Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras—are some of the least developed nations in the Western Hemisphere, with poverty rates twice as high as in the rest of Latin America. The impact of the pandemic and two hurricanes in 2020 compounded the region’s misery, displacing hundreds of thousands and causing Central America’s economies to shrink by 6%. All three countries rank among the most violent and corrupt places on earth. Surveys show that more than 1 in 5 citizens say they’ve had to pay bribes to receive government services.

The Biden administration has called for providing \$4 billion over four years to the three countries to address the “root causes” of emigration. That’s roughly double the amount spent by Donald Trump’s administration, which in recent years cut off aid to punish the countries for failing to crack down on migration. The U.S. has an interest in holding the region’s leaders accountable for their citizens’ welfare, but amid public-health and environmental calamities, Trump’s policy toward Central America was cruel and shortsighted. Wisely, Biden wants to reverse it.






At the same time, the administration should be clear-eyed about what this new assistance can achieve. Although the three countries got about \$2.4 billion in aid between 2013 and 2018, a Government Accountability Office report concluded that “limited information is available about how U.S. assistance im-

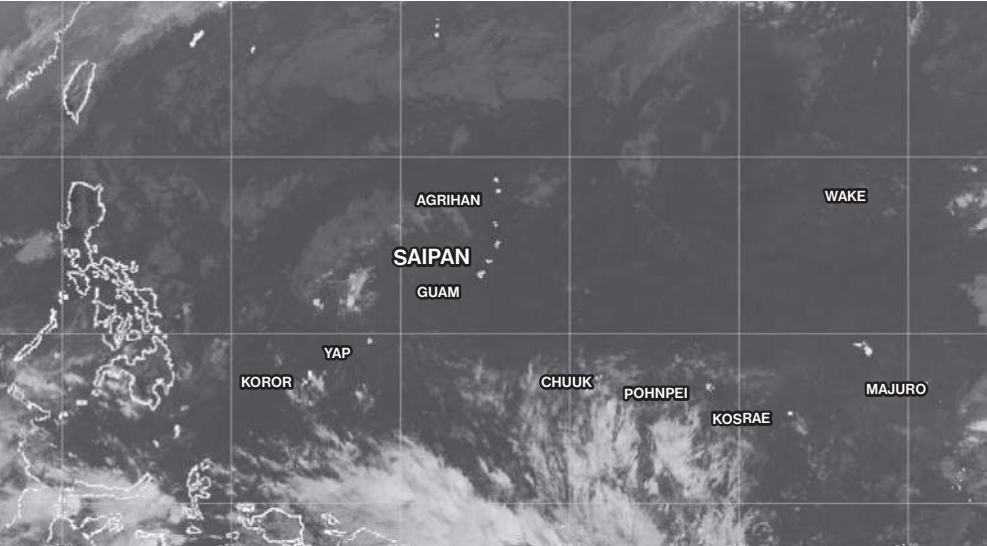
proved prosperity, governance, and security in the Northern Triangle.” Rather than rely on opaque bureaucracies to administer aid programs, the U.S. should adopt a more targeted approach. Diplomats in the region should work with civil-society groups that promote public transparency and the rule of law. “Place-based” strategies that steer resources to areas that produce the highest numbers of migrants should be expanded. Biden should also boost support for anti-corruption commissions that have effectively exposed cases of embezzlement and collusion between government officials and organized crime.

Perhaps more important, the U.S. should try to promote economic growth in the three countries. Negotiating digital trade agreements would reduce operating costs for businesses and spur investment in the region’s nascent technology sector. Linking the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement with the Central America Free Trade Agreement would encourage companies to reshore supply chains to the Northern Triangle by giving goods manufactured there duty-free access to the U.S. market. By one estimate, shifting just 5% of current investment in supply-chain production from China to Central America would create 1 million jobs in the region.

The factors causing so many to flee the Northern Triangle won’t subside overnight—but solving America’s border crisis requires that policymakers address them. A strategy that improves governance and promotes opportunity stands the best chance of helping the region’s people build better futures at home.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
									
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.		Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers.		Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	
86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	76°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 7:37 AM, THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Gentle winds, partly cloudy skies and isolated showers are seen across the Marianas this morning. A surface trough well to the west, north of Yap, is producing showers and thunderstorms and sending some high-level cloud cover eastward to the Marianas. Buoys and altimetry data show seas between 4 and 5 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	88 78 °F	
Palau	Partly Cloudy	85 78 °F	
Yap	Thunderstorms	86 72 °F	
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	86 80 °F	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86 79 °F	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85 79 °F	
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	86 80 °F	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:07 AM	6:30 PM
Saturday	6:06 AM	6:30 PM
Sunday	6:05 AM	6:30 PM
Monday	6:04 AM	6:30 PM
Tuesday	6:04 AM	6:31 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	4:21 AM	4:18 PM	-
Saturday	4:58 AM	5:06 PM	-
Sunday	5:34 AM	5:53 PM	-
Monday	6:09 AM	6:40 PM	-
Tuesday	6:44 AM	7:27 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	68 61 °F	
Beijing	Sunny	78 52 °F	
Hong Kong	Cloudy	78 70 °F	
Honolulu	Mostly Cloudy	83 70 °F	
London	Partly Cloudy	62 43 °F	
Los Angeles	Sunny	82 57 °F	
Manila	Partly Cloudy	92 76 °F	
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	78 56 °F	
Miami	Thunderstorms	89 60 °F	
New York	Rain	53 43 °F	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	66 62 °F	
Paris	Partly Cloudy	57 38 °F	
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	67 46 °F	
Rome	Sunny	64 46 °F	
Salem	Partly Cloudy	60 49 °F	
San Francisco	Thunderstorms	64 56 °F	
Seoul	Cloudy	55 43 °F	
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	65 58 °F	
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	67 42 °F	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
12:01 AM	Low Tide	0.17	
6:44 AM	High Tide	1.82	
12:51 PM	Low Tide	0.77	
6:13 PM	High Tide	1.68	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 29, 2021			
DEPARTURES			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA117	6:30am	7:10am	1, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
UA117/183	6:30am	8:50pm	5 via Guam
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)			
UA183	7:05pm	8:50pm	5
UA183	7:15pm	9:10pm	1, 3,
ARRIVALS			
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA174	4:50am	5:31am	1, 4, 5, 6
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA184/174	9:50pm	5:31am+1	5 via Guam
MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
UA184	9:50pm	3:45am+1	5
UA184	10:25pm	4:10am+1	1, 3
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. <i>(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)</i>			

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.			
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 9, 2021			
SAIPAN TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sat
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sun
ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sat
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sun
ROTA TO GUAM			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
GUAM TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable
SAIPAN TO TINIAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

NEWS DESK

For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235.3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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IN ANTICIPATION OF GUAM TOURISM'S REOPENING

United Airlines announces April and May schedule



GUAM—United Airlines announced yesterday its April and May schedule to support Guam's plan to reopen tourism on May 1.

The schedule will include the following routes:

■ Guam to Honolulu - daily service

■ Guam to Tokyo/Narita - daily service

■ Guam to Saipan - four flights weekly (Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays)

■ Guam to Koror, Palau on April 8, May 9 and 30 with the return flights scheduled for April 9, May 10 and 31. The Guam-Palau flight schedule continues to adjust as Palau reopens to international travelers.

■ Guam to Yap on April 11 and May 23 with the return flights scheduled for the same day.

■ The Island Hopper on April 12, May 10 and May 24 with the return flights scheduled for April 13, May 11 and May 25, all of which are subject to the quarantine restrictions of the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia.

■ The Chuuk-Pohnpei flight is scheduled for April 24 and May 15 with the return flights scheduled for April 25 and May 16.

■ Guam to Manila - three flights weekly (Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays)

Sam Shinohara, United's managing director of Airport

while enhancing how travelers navigate and enjoy the airport. Our arriving customers will enjoy the new Guam airport experience."

Additional Saipan flight

United recently added a weekly flight between Guam and Saipan on Friday mornings, increasing the number of flights between the islands to four flights weekly. Every Friday, Flight UA 174 aboard a Boeing 737-800 will depart Guam at 4:50am and arrive in Saipan at 5:31am. The return flight, UA 117, will depart Saipan at 6:30am and will arrive in Guam at 7:10am, which conveniently connects to United's Honolulu service. United now operates nonstop flights

between Guam and Saipan on Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays.

Shinohara said, "As we continue to work hard to meet our customers' demand, we are pleased to add capacity between Guam and Saipan. The additional flight will offer better convenience for residents traveling for personal or business between the two islands. It also offers an additional opportunity to transport essential cargo, such as COVID vaccines, medical supplies, and mail into Saipan. It's another step closer to normalcy that we all welcome."

Connecting through Japan

As flights resume in the region, United also announced that customers traveling from Guam to Narita/Tokyo can conveniently connect through

to three U.S. cities—San Francisco (daily), Los Angeles (twice-weekly in April, increasing to three-times-weekly in May), and New York/Newark (five-times-weekly).

United's Travel Ready Center

United recently launched its "Travel-Ready Center"—a new, digital solution where customers can review COVID-19 entry requirements, find local testing options and upload any required testing and vaccination records for domestic and international travel, all in one place. United is the first airline to integrate all these features into its mobile app and website. Customers with an active reservation can access the Travel-Ready Center through the "My Trips" section of the United App and on united.com. **(PR)**

**Commonwealth Utilities Corporation****JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

JVA No. 21 - 032

Opening Date: April 5, 2021 • Closing Date: April 16, 2021

POSITION TITLE:	Safety Technician
DEPARTMENT:	Safety Office Division
LOCATION:	Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA
ANNUAL SALARY:	\$20,826.00 - \$28,115.00 per annum, Non - Exempt
CONTRACT:	Not Contracted
POSITION(S):	One (1)

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Chief of Administration or his/her designee.

Duties:

- Assists with facility and site inspections to review and monitor compliance with safety and environmental regulations and standards; prepares and issues citations for corrective actions to address compliance violations.
- Responds to incidents and emergencies and assists with ensuring compliance with laws, rules and regulations; follows up to ensure issues are resolved and procedures are followed.
- Prepares incident and accident reports to document issues and corrective actions.
- Monitors equipment and supplies inventory; requests replacement stock to replenish inventory levels; ensures stock supply and preparedness for responding to oil spills or related incidents.
- Conducts or assists with a variety of informational workshops and/or orientations.
- Reviews project specifications and monitors field project work as needed.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:

Education: High School Diploma or GED or ABE Program AS and based on assignment, up to 2 years of related work experience.

Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Investigative techniques; Mitigation procedures; Safe work practices and procedures; Customer service principles; Modern office technology.

Skills in: Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Performing inspections to monitor safety and environmental compliance; Responding to emergency incidents to ensure corrective actions and proper procedures are followed; Monitoring equipment and supply inventory; Conducting and assisting with informational workshops and orientations; Reviewing project specifications and monitoring project work; Providing customer service; Preparing reports and related activity documentation; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Licensing:

- Valid CNMI Driver's License with appropriate class.
- Hazmat and OSHA Certifications (Position may require)

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, from Monday through Friday (Except Legal Holidays), 7:30 am - 4:30 pm. Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB21-MOT-061

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 26, 2021 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"TINIAN DOG KENNEL RENNOVATION FOR THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR, MUNICIPALITY OF TINIAN AND AGUIGUAN"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE TINIAN MAYORS OFFICE, SAN JOSE VILLAGE, TINIAN & THE TINIAN LIAISON OFFICE, NAVY HILL RD., SAIPAN. A \$100.00 NON-REFUNDABLE FEE IS FOR THE PROJECT PACKAGE WILL BE ASSESSED.

A PRE-BID MEETING AND SITE INSPECTION FOR THIS PROJECT IS ON **APRIL 12, 2021 AT 10:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME**, AT THE PROJECT SITE, SAN JOSE, TINIAN.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB CAN BE MADE TO MRS. RAENA CABRERA, PROJECT MANAGER, VIA EMAIL TO raena10@gmail.com NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS **APRIL 14, 2021**. QUESTIONS SUBMITTED AFTER THE GIVEN DEADLINE WILL **NOT** BE ENTERTAINED.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ EDWIN P. ALDAN
MAYOR OF TINIAN & AGUIGUAN

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

AUDITOR I

EXAMINATION NO. OPA-21-002

Opening Date: March 19, 2021

Closing Date: April 9, 2021

For more information, please visit our website at www.opacnmi.com or come visit us at our office in Capitol Hill. Interested persons may also pick up a copy of the Examination Announcement at the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) in Garapan.

Office of the Public Auditor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Website: <http://opacnmi.com>
Address: 1236 Yap Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Mailing Address: PO Box 501399, Saipan MP 96950
Email: mail@opacnmi.com
Phone: (670) 322-6481 Fax: (670) 322-7812

A Northern Mariana Islands Social Service
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) HUMAN TRAFFICKING OUTREACH SPECIALIST

For more information, job description and application can be obtained from Karidat Main Office at Sister Remedios Community Center Chalan Kanoa.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED: Complete application form, copy of diploma/degree, resume/bio-data; current police clearance within 6 months and a copy of valid CNMI driver's license.

NO PHONE INQUIRIES PLEASE.
CLOSING DATE: FRIDAY, APRIL 16, 2021 AT 4:00PM

ACCOUNTANT

Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting (may be foreign equivalent).
Review accounts for discrepancies and reconcile differences. Compute taxes owed and prepare tax returns, ensuring compliance with payment, reporting, or other tax requirements.

60-months experience as Accountant.

Send resume to
H.K. Pangelinan & Associates LLC.
Attn: Human Resources, P.O. Box 501531, Saipan, MP 96950.



Docomo Pacific donates smartphone to Red Cross Guam

TAMUNING, Guam—Docomo Pacific recently donated a Samsung smartphone to the American Red Cross Guam Chapter to be used to support military service members, veterans, and their families.

“This communication device would allow the Red Cross to connect service

members, veterans and their families to the assistance they need 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year,” said Chita Blaise, chief executive officer of the American Red Cross Guam Chapter. “This generous donation helps us fulfill one of our critical missions.”

Docomo Pacific continues

Chita Blaise, left, chief executive officer of the American Red Cross Guam Chapter receives the phone donation from Marilyn Borja, executive vice president, Enterprise Business Unit of Docomo Pacific.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

to partner with the American Red Cross Guam Chapter in their efforts to provide humanitarian aid to the community. In March, the American Red Cross celebrated individuals that turned compassion into action by helping others in times of crisis. Docomo Pacific supported this by making the donation. Individuals are encouraged to join the American Red Cross effort through volunteering, donating blood, learning life-saving techniques, or making a financial donation. (PR)

Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting

Wednesday, April 14, 2021 | 5:00 PM
Commonwealth Zoning Office, 2nd Fl. Joeten Dandan Bldg.
Tel: 234-9661/2 • Fax: 234-9666
www.cnmzoning.com

SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

A. Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda

B. Public Hearings:

1. Conditional Use Application #2020-5841 – Latte Stoned, LLC is proposing to utilize two (2) cargo freight containers measuring 40' (L) x 8' (W) x 9' (H) and construct a Growing Canopy Area measuring 60' (L) x 50' (W) x 10' (H) for its Cannabis Farm use. This use is classified as “Cannabis Farm” and is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This site is located on Lot 1479-2-5-1 in the village of Chalan Galaide. This area is zoned as Rural.

C. Adjournment

In an effort to provide public access to this meeting during this pandemic, the Commonwealth Zoning Board will host this meeting via:

Zoom Video Communications
Meeting Link: <https://zoom.us/j/6853007492>
Meeting Code: 685 300 7492

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

for
Latte Stoned, LLC

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Latte Stoned, LLC is proposing to utilize two (2) cargo freight containers measuring 40' (L) x 8' (W) x 9' (H) and construct a Growing Canopy Area measuring 60' (L) x 50' (W) x 10' (H) for its Cannabis Farm use. This use is classified as “Cannabis Farm” and is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This site is located on Lot 1479-2-5-1 in the village of Chalan Galaide. This area is zoned as Rural.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: April 14, 2021
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Commonwealth Zoning Office, 2nd Fl.
Joeten Dandan Bldg.

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, April 6-14, 2021. Please send written comments via e-mail to zoningboard@cnmzoning.com. via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Tatiana Babauta, Chairwoman

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: 234-7859 | Fax: 234-5750
Attorney for Plaintiff Bernadita Cabrera Palacios

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

**BERNADITA)
CABRERA PALACIOS,) Civil Action
Plaintiff,) No. 21-0003
vs.)
HONG DA DEVELOPMENT) AMENDED
CORPORATION,) SUMMONS BY
Defendant.) PUBLICATION**

**TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT, HONG DA
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION:**

You have been made a Defendant in the suit filed in this Commonwealth Superior Court, by Plaintiff Bernadita Cabrera Palacios, on her COMPLAINT FOR RECOVERY OF POSSESSION AND DAMAGES PURSUANT TO THE HOLDOVER TENANCY ACT.

You may file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint filed against you in this action within **Twenty-One (21) Days** after the date of the last publication of this Summons. You must deliver or mail a copy of your answer to **Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya), P.O. Box 503758 CK, Saipan, MP 96950**, or as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Court of the above-entitled Court for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Office of the Clerk of Court, CNMI SUPERIOR COURT, 1st Floor, Guma' Hustisia, Limwal Aweewe, House of Justice, Susupe Village, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan MP 96950-0307. It may be prepared and signed for you by your Attorney and sent to the Clerk of Court by messenger or by mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgement by default pursuant to the court rules of the above-entitled Court may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

Dated this 26th day of March, 2021.

/s/ _____
Clerk of Court

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

**RENATO G.)
CALAGE, JR.) FCD-DI
Petitioner) CIVIL ACTION
vs.) NO. 20-0317
Cresette) SUMMONS
Bartolome) FOR
Respondent,) PUBLICATION**

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 5505 CHRB Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 9th day of October, 2020.

/s/ Clerk of Court

DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

P. O. Box 501304, Saipan MP 96950 | Gualo Rai Center, Saipan
TEL. NO. 664-8300 | FAX NO. 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

As of April 9, 2021

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Li Hang Wang	03/31/2021 SS-2021-024	Snow White Castle	Garapan, Saipan	Shoreline	Under Review*
2. Department of Public Works	02/09/2021 SMS-2021-015	Route 36 (Windward/Kalabera) Road Improvements	Talofofo/Marpi, Saipan	Major Siting	Approved*
3. Department of Public Works	02/24/2021 SMS-2000-X-142-A1	Route 35 (Tun Herman Pan Road) Road Improvements	Dandan, Saipan	Major Siting	Permit Decision Deferred

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building
P.O. Box 501220 CK • Saipan, MP 96950-1220
Telephone: (670) 664-4282 • Facsimile: (670) 235-5131

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 et seq.), the **Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (“CUC”) Board of Directors’ Personnel Committee** hereby informs the general public that the Committee will meet beginning **Wednesday, April 14, 2021, at 9:30 a.m.** in preparation for the Administrative Hearings set for **Thursday, April 15, 2021 through Friday, April 16, 2021, at 10:30 a.m.** at the CUC Conference Room, Room 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building.

The Agenda is as follows:

- Preliminary Matters
 - Roll Call
 - Adoption of Agenda
- Public Comments
- Personnel Committee Meeting – April 14, 2021**
9:30 a.m. Discussions and Briefings for Administrative Hearings
- Administrative Review Hearings
 - Administrative Review – April 15, 2021**
10:30 A.M. - Appeal of Corrective Action No. 20-0001-CA
 - Administrative Review – April 16, 2021**
10:30 A.M. - Appeal of Corrective Action No. 20-0002-CA
- Executive Session
- Adjournment

¹ A governing body may hold an executive session during a regular or special meeting “[t]o receive and evaluate complaints or charges brought against a public officer or employee. However, upon the request of such officer or employee, a public hearing or a meeting open to the public shall be conducted upon such complaints or charges.” Here, the Administrative Review Hearings are against the Executive Director’s respective decisions in the above-referenced cases.

Business

DESIGN FLOWER AND GIFT SHOP

Flowers and gifts for all occasions



Design Flower and Gift Shop at the Cabrera Center along Beach Road is open from Monday to Saturday, 9am-5pm.

MARK RABAGO

By **MARK RABAGO**
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Design Flower and Gift Shop at the Cabrera Center along Beach Road has been the go-to place for flowers and keepsakes for island folk since the early 1990s.

Operations manager Fhe Gamab said the businesses was founded by Francisco

C. Cabrera as Design Florist some 30 years ago and the company has thrived through the ups and down of the CNMI economy, through typhoons and super typhoons, and even a name change.

"Business through the years at the flower shop has been improving, especially because of social media. It really helps a lot in letting the commu-



Operation manager Fhe Gamab.

MARK RABAGO

nity know about our services, products, as well as location," she said.

As expected, Design Flower and Gift Shop primarily sells flowers (price range from \$20 above) but has also filled its inventory with cherished gift items over the years.

"We sell all kinds of fresh flowers like lilies, carnation, mums, and orchids with roses being our No. 1 bestseller. We also have silk flowers for those who prefer them. On the gifts side, we have chocolates, crystal vases, balloons, cookies, crackers, and fruits," said Gamab.

Design Flower and Gift Shop has flowers and gift items for all season and for all occasions like Valentine's Day, Mother's Day, Easter, birthdays, graduations, grand openings, and anniversaries. They also have funeral flower arrangements

for the dear departed.

When it comes to events, the store rents out a Christmas decoration package (Christmas tree and decorations) and a wedding package (decorations from church to reception and wedding accessories).

Design Flower and Gift Shop also sells native and rattan items as well as Catholic novenas available in both English and Chamorro.

Gamab said what sets their store apart from other local flower shops is their customer service and the high quality of their products. "We always want to make sure the we give our best service to our clients. We also believe that quality is much better than quantity, and we always attend to all our customers' requests even before we close a transaction."



MARK RABAGO

Design Flower and Gift Shop has flowers and gift items for all season and for all occasions like Valentine's Day, Mother's Day, Easter, birthdays, graduations, grand openings, and anniversaries.

Like all businesses on island, Design Flower and Gift Shop was not immune to the ravages brought by the COVID-19 pandemic. "COVID-19 definitely has affected our operations, most especially on our peak months. People have been scared to go out and are a bit anxious about what will happen. But slowly and little by little the business has been recovering a bit," said Gamab.

She also assured that the shop adheres to all the guidelines set by the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force like social distancing and the requirement to use hand sanitizers and wear face masks.

Currently, Design Flower and Gift Shop has a promotion for select items and at times rewards early birds with gen-

erous discounts.

"During seasonal occasions, we always see to it that our first 10 clients will get a discount on all their orders," said Gamab.

Design Flower and Gift Shop is open from Monday to Saturday, 9am-5pm. But, due to clients' request, they also accommodate emergency needs like after-office-hours orders and deliveries.

For more information or orders, call 234-5593/235-8572/235-1414. They can also reach Design Flower and Gift Shop through following numbers: 287-5810 (Frank), 287-4449 (Bong), 285-4936 (Fhe), and 285-5458 (Garijo). They can also be reached through their Facebook page: Design Florist and Gift Shop.

Biden open to compromise on infrastructure, but not inaction

President Joe Biden drew a red line on his \$2.3 trillion infrastructure plan Wednesday, saying he is open to compromise on how to pay for the package but inaction is unacceptable.

The president turned fiery in an afternoon speech, saying that the United States is failing to build, invest and research for the future and adding that failure to do so amounts to giving up on "leading the world."

"Compromise is inevitable," Biden said. "We'll be open to good ideas in good faith negotiations. But here's what we won't be open to: We will not be open to doing nothing. Inaction, simply, is not an option."

Biden challenged the idea that low tax rates would do more for growth than investing in care workers, roads, bridges, clean water, broadband, school buildings, the power grid, electric vehicles and veterans hospitals.

The president has taken heat from Republican law-

makers and business groups for proposing that corporate tax increases should finance an infrastructure package that goes far beyond the traditional focus on roads and bridges.

"What the president proposed this week is not an infrastructure bill," Sen. Roger Wicker, R-Miss., said on NBC's "Meet the Press," one of many quotes that Republican congressional aides emailed to reporters before Biden's speech. "It's a huge tax increase, for one thing. And it's a tax increase on small businesses, on job creators in the United States of America."

Biden last week proposed funding his \$2.3 trillion infrastructure plan largely through an increase in the corporate tax rate to 28% and an expanded global minimum tax set at 21%. But he said Wednesday he was willing to accept a rate below 28% so long as the projects are financed and taxes are not increased on people making less than \$400,000. (AP)

Major economies support \$650 billion boost in IMF resources

WASHINGTON (AP)—Finance officials of the world's major economies on Wednesday agreed on a proposal to boost the resources of the International Monetary Fund by \$650 billion as a way to provide more support to vulnerable countries struggling to deal with a global pandemic.

The Group of 20 major industrial countries issued a joint statement that also announced the approval of a final six-month moratorium on debt payments by 73 of the world's poorest countries.

The proposal to increase the IMF's resources received a boost earlier this year when it got the backing of the Biden administration. The resources are known as IMF Special Drawing Rights and create an asset that countries can use to bolster their own reserves.

The proposal still needs ap-

proval from the IMF's board and then contributions from member countries.

The debt-payment deal extends the moratorium begun last year until the end of this year. But international aid groups expressed unhappiness that the G-20 is saying the extension will be the final one to be offered.

"We've seen progress on debt relief and aid, but we still need to solve multiple challenges so countries can get through this crisis," said Eric LeCompte, executive director of Jubilee USA Network. "It is unlikely that the breathing space indebted countries get with this extension will be enough."

The G-20 group also lent support to a Biden administration drive to establish a global minimum tax rate for corporations, saying it

hoped to achieve a consensus in the group by the middle of this year.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen had urged countries to adopt a minimum corporate tax in a speech on Monday, saying it was needed to stop a "30-year race to the bottom" in which countries had slashed corporate tax rates to attract multi-national businesses.

The Biden administration is proposing to boost the U.S. corporate tax rate to 28%, up from the current 21% where it had been reduced by a Trump administration tax cut bill approved in 2017. Before it was reduced, the U.S. corporate tax rate stood at 35%. The administration hopes to use the extra corporate tax revenue to help fund increased spending on infrastructure.

Italian Finance Minister Daniele Franco, the chair of

the G-20 finance group, said that Yellen had told the group that the Biden administration proposal is consistent with the multi-national effort to agree on a minimum tax rate.

Yellen and Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell represented the United States at the virtual meeting, which was being held in advance of virtual meetings this week of the 190-nation IMF and its sister lending organization, the World Bank.

On Tuesday, the IMF released an updated economic forecast which boosted global growth for this year to 6%, up from a projection of 5.5% in January, with the boost coming in large part from accelerated vaccine rollouts and the \$1.9 trillion rescue package the Biden administration pushed through Congress last month.

Nation

Biden to unveil actions on guns

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Joe Biden will unveil a series of executive actions aimed at addressing gun violence on Thursday, delivering his first major action on gun control since taking office.

He'll also nominate David Chipman, a former federal agent and adviser at the gun control group Giffords, to be director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, according to senior Biden administration officials.

Biden has faced increasing pressure to act on gun control after a spate of mass shootings across the U.S. in recent weeks, but the White House has repeatedly emphasized the need for legislative action on guns. While the House passed a background-check bill last month, gun control measures face slim prospects in an evenly-divided Senate, where Republicans remain near-united against most proposals.

Biden will be joined by Attorney General Merrick Garland at the event, and most of the actions will come from the Justice Department.

Biden is expected to announce tighter regulations

requiring buyers of so-called "ghost guns" to undergo background checks. The homemade firearms—often assembled from parts and milled with a metal-cutting machine—often lack serial numbers used to trace them. It's legal to build a gun in a home or a workshop and there is no federal requirement for a background check.

The president's plans were previewed by a person familiar with the expected actions who was not authorized to publicly discuss them.

Senior administration officials confirmed that the Justice Department would issue a new proposed rule aimed at reining in ghost guns within 30 days, but offered no details on the content of the rule.

The Justice Department will also issue a proposed rule within 60 days tightening regulations on pistol-stabilizing braces, like the one used by the Boulder, Colorado, shooter in a massacre last month that left 10 dead. The rule would designate pistols used with stabilizing braces as short-barreled rifles, which, under the National Firearms Act, require a federal license to own and are subject

to a more thorough application process and a \$200 tax.

The Justice Department will also publish model red flag legislation within 60 days, which the administration says will make it easier for states to adopt their own red flag laws. Such laws allow for individuals to petition a court to allow the police to confiscate weapons from a person deemed to be a danger to themselves or others.

And it will begin to provide more data on firearms trafficking, starting with a new comprehensive report on the issue, which the Biden administration says it hasn't done in over two decades.

The president will also announce investments in community violence intervention programs, which are aimed at reducing gun violence in urban communities, across five federal agencies.

Administration officials hinted there may be more to come from the administration on guns, calling the round of executive actions "initial steps" that were completed under Garland's purview within the first few weeks of his tenure.

contested images still seemed to be near Floyd's neck, though he agreed his weight might have shifted at times.

In other testimony, the lead Minnesota state investigator on the case, James Reyerson, initially agreed with Nelson that Floyd seemed to say in a police body-camera video of his arrest, "I ate too many drugs."

But when a prosecutor played a longer clip of the video, Reyerson said he believed what Floyd really said was "I ain't do no drugs."

Chauvin, 45, is charged with murder and manslaughter in Floyd's death May 25. Floyd, 46, was arrested outside a neighborhood market after being accused of trying to pass a counterfeit \$20 bill. A panicky-sounding Floyd struggled and claimed to be claustrophobic as police tried to put him in a squad car, and they pinned him to the pavement.

Bystander video of Floyd crying that he couldn't breathe as onlookers yelled at Chauvin to get off him sparked protests and scattered violence around the U.S.

Nelson has argued that the now-fired white officer "did exactly what he had been trained to do over his 19-year career," and he has suggested that Floyd's drug use and his underlying health condi-

tions are what killed him, not Chauvin's knee, as prosecutors contend. Fentanyl and methamphetamine were found in Floyd's system.

Breahna Giles, a state forensic scientist, testified Wednesday that pills found in the SUV Floyd was driving contained methamphetamine and fentanyl. Another witness, forensic chemist Susan Meith, testified that remnants of a pill found in the back of the police squad car also contained methamphetamine and fentanyl. Earlier testimony revealed that this pill contained DNA from Floyd's saliva.

Earlier, Nelson asked Stiger about uses of force that are commonly referred to by police as "lawful but awful." Stiger conceded that "you can have a situation where by law it looks horrible to the common eye, but based on the state law, it's lawful."

Nelson has argued, too, that the officers on the scene were distracted by what they perceived as an increasingly hostile crowd of onlookers.

But Stiger told the jury, "I did not perceive them as being a threat," even though some bystanders were name-calling and using foul language. He added that most of the yelling was due to "their concern for Mr. Floyd."

Asia

IF CHINA ATTACKS

'Taiwan will fight to the very last day'

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Taiwan's foreign minister on Wednesday said the island will defend itself "to the very last day" if attacked by China.

Joseph Wu said China's attempts at conciliation while engaging in military intimidation are sending "mixed signals" to the island's residents.

China claims Taiwan as its own territory to be won over peacefully or by force.

Wu noted China flew 10 warplanes into Taiwan's air defense identification zone on Monday and deployed an aircraft carrier group for exercises near Taiwan.

"We are willing to defend ourselves, that's without any question," Wu told reporters. "We will fight a war if we

need to fight a war, and if we need to defend ourselves to the very last day, then we will defend ourselves to the very last day."

China does not recognize Taiwan's democratically elected government, and leader Xi Jinping has said "unification" between the sides cannot be put off indefinitely.

"On the one hand they want to charm the Taiwanese people by sending their condolences, but at the same time they are also sending their military aircraft and military vessels closer to Taiwan aimed at intimidating Taiwan's people," Wu said at a ministry briefing.

"The Chinese are send-

ing very mixed signals to the Taiwanese people and I would characterize that as self-defeating," Wu said.

The vast improvements in China's military capabilities and its increasing activity around Taiwan have raised concerns in the U.S., which is legally bound to ensure Taiwan is capable of defending itself and to regard all threats to the island's security as matters of "grave concern."

Speaking in Washington, State Department spokesman Ned Price reaffirmed the U.S. commitment to Taiwan. "The United States maintains the capacity to resist any resort to force or any other forms of coercion that would jeopardize the security or the social or economic system of the people on Taiwan," Price said Wednesday.

The naval drills being conducted in waters off Taiwan were meant to help China "safeguard national sovereignty, security and development interests," the army said Monday, using language often interpreted as being directed at Taiwan's leadership that has refused to give in to Beijing's demands that it recognize the island as part of Chinese territory.

Taiwan and China split amid civil war in 1949, and most Taiwanese favor maintaining the current state of de facto independence while engaging in robust economic exchanges with the mainland.



Taiwanese Foreign Minister Joseph Wu speaks during a briefing Wednesday, April 7, 2021, in Taipei, Taiwan.

Indonesia landslides death toll rises to 140, dozens missing

LEMBATA, Indonesia (AP)—The death toll from mudslides in eastern Indonesia has risen to 140 with dozens still missing, officials said Wednesday, as rain continued to pound the region and hamper the search.

East Flores district on Adonara island suffered the highest losses with 67 bodies recovered so far and six missing. Mud tumbled down from surrounding hills early on Sunday, catching people at sleep. Some were swept away by flash floods after overnight rains caused rivers to burst their banks.

On nearby Lembata island, the downpour triggered by Tropical Cyclone Seroja sent solidified lava from a volcanic eruption in November to crash down on more than a dozen villages, killing at least 32 and leaving 35 unaccounted for, according to the National Disaster Mitigation Agency.

Hundreds of police, sol-

diers and residents dug through the debris with their bare hands, shovels and hoes searching for those buried. Relatives wailed Wednesday as they watched rescuers pull out a mud-caked body, place it on a bamboo stretcher and take it away for burial.

"Please find my father and mother who are still buried ... whatever their condition," Suzanna Tasoin cried to rescuers struggling to dig up tons of volcanic materials and rocks with farm tools at Waimatan village on Lembata island, "We want to bury them with the respect they deserve."

In all, landslides and flooding have killed at least 140 across several islands in Indonesia as well as 27 people in neighboring East Timor. Thousands of homes have been damaged and thousands of people displaced by the weather, which is expected to continue until at least Friday as the storm moves south to-

ward Australia.

Rescue efforts were being hampered by the rains and the remoteness of the area, where roads and bridges were damaged in many places.

Rescue personnel with excavators and tons of food and medicine were being deployed from Makassar city on Sulawesi island, but were hindered by bad weather and extremely high waves.

Five helicopters were helping to reach isolated areas of the islands, National Disaster Mitigation Agency chief Doni Monardo told reporters late Wednesday.

He said evacuees were in dire need of basic necessities such as blankets, mats, tents, baby food and medical services.

The government provided tens of thousands of anti-coronavirus masks, and Monardo said authorities would set up health posts at refugee camps to test people for the virus.

World

UK advises limiting AstraZeneca in under-30s amid clot worry

LONDON (AP)—British authorities recommended Wednesday that the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine not be given to adults under 30 where possible because of strengthening evidence that the shot may be linked to rare blood clots.

The recommendation came as regulators in the United Kingdom and the European Union emphasized that the benefits of receiving the vaccine continue to outweigh the risks for most people—even though the European Medicines Agency said it had found a “possible link” between the shot and the rare clots. British authorities recommended that people under 30 be offered alternatives to AstraZeneca. But the EMA advised no such age restrictions, leaving it up to its member-countries to decide whether to limit its use.

Several countries have already imposed limits on who can receive the vaccine, and any restrictions are closely watched since the vaccine,

which is cheaper and easier to store than many others, is critical to global immunization campaigns and is a pillar of the U.N.-backed program known as COVAX that aims to get vaccines to some of the world’s poorest countries.

“This is a course correction, there’s no question about that,” Jonathan Van-Tam, England’s deputy chief medical officer, said during a news briefing.

Van-Tam said the effect on Britain’s vaccination timetable—one of the speediest in the world—should be “zero or negligible,” assuming the National Health Service receives expected deliveries of other vaccines, including those produced by Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna.

EU and U.K. regulators held simultaneous news conferences Wednesday to announce the results of investigations into reports of blood clots that sparked concern about the rollout of the AstraZeneca vaccine.

The EU agency described the clots as “very rare” side effects. Dr Sabine Straus, chair of its Safety Committee, said the best data was from Germany, where there was one report of the clots for every 100,000 doses given, although she noted far fewer reports in the U.K. Still, that’s less than the clot risk that healthy women face from birth control pills, noted another expert, Dr. Peter Arlett.

The agency said most of the

cases reported were in women under 60 within two weeks of vaccination, though it was unable to identify specific risk factors based on current information. Experts reviewed several dozen cases that came mainly from Europe and the U.K., where around 25 million people have received the AstraZeneca vaccine.

“The risk of mortality from COVID is much greater than the risk of mortality

from these side effects,” said Emer Cooke, the EMA’s executive director.

Arlett said there is no information suggesting an increased risk from the other major COVID-19 vaccines.

In a statement, AstraZeneca said both UK and EU regulators had requested their vaccine labels be updated to warn of these “extremely rare potential side effect(s).”

“Both of these reviews re-

affirmed the vaccine offers a high-level of protection against all severities of COVID-19 and that these benefits continue to far outweigh the risks,” it said.

The EMA’s investigation focused on unusual types of blood clots that have occurred along with low blood platelets. One rare clot type appears in multiple blood vessels and the other in veins that drain blood from the brain.

Brazil’s Bolsonaro ignores calls for lockdown to slow virus

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro said on Wednesday there would be “no national lockdown,” ignoring growing calls from health experts a day after the nation saw its highest number of COVID-19 deaths in 24 hours since the pandemic began.

Brazil’s Health Ministry registered 4,195 deaths on Tuesday, becoming the third country to go above that threshold as Bolsonaro’s political opponents demanded stricter measures to slow down the spread of the virus.

“We’re not going to accept this politics of stay home and shut everything down,” Bolsonaro said, resisting the pressure in a speech in the city of Chapeco in Santa Catarina state. “There will be no national lockdown.”

Brazil’s conservative president also defended the use of so-called early treatment protocols, which include anti-malaria drug hydroxychloroquine. No scientific studies have found the drug effective to prevent or treat COVID-19.

“There is not enough vaccine today in the world. We need to find alternatives,” he said.

The number of deaths in Chapeco linked to the virus has finally come down after some very difficult weeks. Intensive care units had surpassed capacity, forcing authorities to transfer infected patients to hospitals in other states.

Last month, the city implemented some restrictions on the economy for two weeks, but Bolsonaro attributed Chapeco’s recent success to the use of early treatment protocols, newspaper Estadão reported.

In an open letter published Tuesday in newspaper O Globo, the Brazilian Association of Collective Health, which counts nearly 20,000 members, called for a three-week nationwide lockdown.

“The serious epidemiological situation that is leading to the collapse of the health system in several states requires the immediate adoption, without hesitation, of strict restrictive measures,” the statement said.

Intensive care units in most Brazilian states have an occupation rate above 90%, though figures have been stable since the past week.

The Supreme Court is ruling today on the reopening of religious buildings nationwide. Many local authorities decided to ban large religious gatherings in spite of a federal government decision to label them as part of essential services.

“There is no Christianity without community life,” argued Brazil’s solicitor general André Mendonça, an evangelical pastor, before the Supreme Court on Wednesday. “True Christians are never willing to kill for their faith, but they are always willing to die to guarantee freedom of religion and worship.”



*In Celebration of
Her New Life*

Retta Sue Sablan Hamilton

— October 08, 1973 - April 07, 2021 —

Mass of intention is celebrated on the following:

Mount Carmel Cathedral 6am daily, April 11 & 18 9am
 Kristo Rai Church 6am daily
 Santa Soledad Church 6pm (no mass Monday), Sunday 10:30am
 St Jude Church 6pm (Mon-Sat), Sunday 6am/8am/10am
 Santa Remedios Church 6pm (Mon-Sat), Sunday 7am
 San Vicente Church 6am Friday, Saturday 5:30pm, Sunday 9am
 April 12 - 16 6pm (Mon-Fri), Saturday 5:30pm, Sunday 10:30am

Her celebration of life will be held on Monday, April 19, 2021, at Kristo Rai Church. Responso service will be at 9:00 am followed by the Holy Rosary. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 AM.

Thank you and Si Yu'us Ma'ase
The Family

Survived by:
Mother: Delia Reyes Sablan
Sisters & Brothers:
 Myra Hamilton/Jeffrey Heston (*Joshua, Chad, Sterling, Zachariah, Jessica*)
 Dora Mac H. Pagasian/Edwin (*Dexter, Juan Jr., Jennika*)
 Paula Jane Hamilton (*†Rica, Renae/Ryan (Shavonne, RJ, Carter), Juan II, Reiaann*)
 Joanne H. Aldan/Peter (*Brittney, Jacob, Tiana, Ava*)
 Ricardo Dado II (*Sky, Sage, Scarlett, Soul*)
 Michelle H. Tomokane/Jeffrey (*Brandon, Abbigelle, Ethan, Chace*)
 Anthony C. Hamilton/Jessica (*Jayden, Anthony Jr., Austin*)
 John C. Hamilton (*Jeremiah, Madison*)
 Matthew C. Hamilton/Erica Pangelinan (*Naomi*)
Friend: Jesse D. Torres
Fur Babies: Zori, Dorothy, Typhoon
Maternal Aunts & Uncles and their families:
 Elizabeth S. Pratt/Gordon & family
 Rudy R. Sablan/Nola & family
 Viola R. Sablan & family
 Mildred S. Torres/Scott & family
 †Nora R. Sablan & family
 Delbert R. Sablan/Jeannie & family
Paternal Aunts & Uncles and their families:
 Nadine H. Sablan/†Henry & family
 Betty Jane H. Johnson/Mike & family
 Ruby Jean H. Northen/Rick & family
Predeceased by:
Father: †Paul C. Hamilton
Grandparents: †Wilburn C. Hamilton & †Carmen W. Hamilton
 †Manuel T. Sablan & †Dolores R. Sablan
Niece: †Rica Shavonne Hamilton Ada
Maternal Aunt: †Nora R. Sablan
Paternal Uncle: †Henry I. Sablan
Retta Sue is also survived by generations of aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, godchildren and loyal friends.

Off The Wall

Hidden treasure observes the bicentennial of Maine

BANGOR, Maine (AP)—A pair of Mainers have hidden \$20,000 somewhere in the state and they're inviting treasure seekers to come and get it.

The creators of the treasure hunt and the company behind the hunt, Dirigo Treasures LLC, are Kurt and Kelly Stokes of Newcastle, the Lincoln County News reports.

The couple spent three years exploring and photo-

graphing locations around the state before creating an elaborate hide-and-seek game.

"We created the game to celebrate Maine's 200 years of statehood," Kurt Stokes told the newspaper. "What better way to celebrate Maine than to get people out of the house, out of their town and exploring parts of the state they never knew existed?"

Finding the Dirigo treasure will involve solving a secret,

a riddle and a puzzle. Getting started means ponying up for a deck of cards or flash cards for \$19.99 or \$39.99, with a dollar from each sale going to the Maine Cancer Foundation.

The couple ensured that the quest for the hidden treasure is legal, ethical and environmentally responsible.

"We abided by the principles of leaving no trace," Kurt Stokes said.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Unique 4/3/21 date draws lines for Vegas wedding licenses

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Soon-to-be newlyweds lined up out the door of the marriage license office in Las Vegas on Friday, ahead of a unique date to tie the knot: 4/3/21. Nearly 700 couples obtained licenses for the Saturday date, said Jeff Klein, a spokesman for the Clark County Marriage Bureau, as the city where Elvis can be part of the wedding party got set to mark yet another quirky date for nuptials. The clerk's office marked the occasion with keepsake marriage certificates. "Specialty dates like 4/3/21 are always immensely popular," said county Clerk Lynn Goya, who noted that more than 1,800 couples were married on Dec. 13, 2014. April is usually busy for weddings, and past dates with notable numeric sequences have tallied more than 1,000 weddings in a day, Goya said. The office is bracing for a busy first 10 days this December, offering what the clerk dubs "palindrome days" for numbers reading the same forward and backward. Nearly 2,700 couples married on 10/10/10; more than 1,800 tied the knot on 12/12/12; and 3,125 were wed on 11/11/11. The most popular date to date? Goya said 7/7/7 took the cake, with 4,492 marriages.

Tom Brady rookie football card fetches \$2.25M at auction

NEW YORK (AP)—Quarterback Tom Brady is proving he's the GOAT not just on the football field but also in the collectibles market: A rookie football card just sold for \$2.25 million. The card was signed by the GOAT, a common reference to Brady

that stands for "greatest of all time." The price fetched Friday night through online sports auction house Lelands broke a football card record that was previously held by Brady. Another of his rookie cards sold for \$1.32 million on PWCC Marketplace last month. "Tom Brady continues to shatter records both on and off the football field," Lelands President Mike Heffner said in a statement. Brady began his professional football career with the New England Patriots, where he won six Super Bowls. He continued his winning ways after parting from the Patriots in 2020 and joining the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. He earned his seventh Super Bowl win when the Buccaneers beat the Kansas City Chiefs earlier this year.

New Hampshire teen saves West Virginia boy via TikTok

GILMANTON, N.H. (AP)—A New Hampshire teen has been credited with saving a boy more than 800 miles (1,290 kilometers) away—thanks to TikTok. Caden Cotnoir, 13, was watching a TikTok livestream of Trent Jarrett, 12, riding a four-wheeler in West Virginia, when something went awry, WMUR-TV reported. "All of a sudden his phone goes kind of blank, you can see a little bit of light and you can just hear him yelling for help," Caden said. Caden said he could hear Trent yelling out numbers. "I was yelling out my grandparent's house phone number," Trent said, adding it was the only number he could remember. Caden made a virtual call for help and Trent's parents managed to find him and lift the ATV off him. After being trapped for about 20

minutes, he sustained minor cuts and bruises. "He did what he was supposed to do and got the right people and it worked out. It was an Easter miracle," Caden's stepfather, Gilmanton Police Chief Matt Currier, said of him. Caden had followed Trent because of the boys' shared interests, including hunting and fishing, the station reported. The two met via Zoom on Monday, and Trent said he'd like to thank Caden for everything he did.

MMA fighter has finger severed in match; doctors reattach it

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—A mixed martial arts fighter had his finger severed during a match in Philadelphia, but doctors were eventually able to reattach it. Khetag Pliev was injured Thursday night during the second round of his fight, which was stopped when the referee noticed Pliev was missing his left ring finger. "In the second round, he (opponent Devin Goodale) caught my glove with one hand and held it," Pliev told ESPN. "I felt my finger snapped. He kept pulling my glove and my finger snapped. We kept fighting. When the second round was finished, I see my (bone) was out in the open. I wanted to keep fighting, because I felt like I had this guy. But the doctor saw that and stopped the fight." Event promoter Rob Haydak told ESPN that officials began searching inside the cage where the match was held, and an announcement was made to the crowd, asking them to look for it also. After several minutes, the finger was ultimately discovered inside Pliev's glove, Haydak said.

Science & Technology

DEFYING PHYSICS RULEBOOK 'Tantalizing' results of 2 trials

Preliminary results from two experiments suggest something could be wrong with the basic way physicists think the universe works, a prospect that has the field of particle physics both baffled and thrilled.

Tiny particles called muons aren't quite doing what is expected of them in two different long-running experiments in the United States and Europe. The confounding results—if proven right—reveal major problems with the rulebook physicists use to describe and understand how the universe works at the subatomic level.

"We think we might be swimming in a sea of background particles all the time that just haven't been directly discovered," Fermilab experiment co-chief scientist Chris Polly said in a press conference. "There might be monsters we haven't yet imagined



MAXIMILIEN BRICE, JULIEN MARIUS ORDAN/CERN VIA AP

In this 2018 photo made available by CERN, Nikolai Bondar works on the LHCb Muon system at the European Organization for Nuclear Research Large Hadron Collider facility outside of Geneva.

that are emerging from the vacuum interacting with our muons and this gives us a window into seeing them."

The rulebook, called the Standard Model, was developed about 50 years ago. Experiments performed over decades affirmed over and over again that its descriptions of

the particles and the forces that make up and govern the universe were pretty much on the mark. Until now.

"New particles, new physics might be just beyond our research," said Wayne State University particle physicist Alexey Petrov. "It's tantalizing."

TECH Q&A: Inside the hidden costs of printers and ink cartridges

Q: I have an HP Envy Photo 6255 printer. Is there a way to modify the printer so it will accept only black ink cartridges?

A: Yes, but there are some hidden costs. HP, like other printer manufacturers, operates on the old razor and razor blades business model: Printers are sold cheaply and ink is sold at high prices.

By some estimates, a lot of printers are sold at a loss just to enable the sale of profitable ink cartridges (see tinyurl.com/58usy9kh). This affects consumers in different ways:

■ The kind of printer you have will allow you to remove the color cartridge and print only with the black cartridge (called "single cartridge mode.")

That's because your printer uses an ink-squirting mechanism, or "print head," that's contained inside each ink cartridge. This design frees you from having to buy expensive color ink cartridges that you don't want.

■ The other kind of printer can't print anything unless it has both black and color ink cartridges present, and all contain at least some ink. HP says that's because the print head is part of the printer, not the cartridge, and as a result both types of ink are needed to clear the ink pathways during automatic maintenance. That clearly adds to the cost of buying ink. (For a list of HP ink jet printers that require multiple cartridges, see

By STEVE ALEXANDER
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

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tinyurl.com/4ryt4pfw).

But here's the surprise. While your printer can get along on only a black ink cartridge, HP charges you for the privilege: Your ink cartridges cost more for the amount of ink they contain.

So, if you print frequently, your ink costs can be higher than they would be for a printer that requires multiple ink cartridges in order to print (see tinyurl.com/c2e64dhe).

Here's some advice for readers who are considering buying a new printer: There appears to be a workaround that can lower ink costs. The trick is to buy an HP printer that requires both black and color print ink cartridges for printing.

Then return the printer to its factory settings (see tinyurl.com/dsknnvhw), which will remove the HP software that enforces the multiple ink cartridge requirement. You will be able to use only a black cartridge without paying extra for ink.

Q: I want to make a minor edit on a PDF file, but I can't get the file to save the change once I make it. What should I do?

A: The problem could be caused by using the wrong software or incorrect program settings. Or, it could be caused by restrictions that are built into that particular PDF file.

First make sure you have the right program. The widely used free Adobe Acrobat Reader DC can fill out a PDF form and save it, but it can't edit text that's already in a PDF.

For that you need the Adobe Acrobat program (PC version \$300 one-time purchase, online version \$156 a year) that can create or edit PDF files. Alternatively, you can edit PDF files with some other programs, including Microsoft Word, Google Docs or a PDF editor program (see tinyurl.com/hzw5f85c).

If you are using Adobe Acrobat and still can't edit a PDF document, you may need to set the program as your computer's "default PDF viewer" (see tinyurl.com/3m7scy9c).

You should also check to see if the file is "restricted for editing" (see tinyurl.com/3wz8jfkf6).

Life & Style

Celebrity zookeeper Jack Hanna diagnosed with dementia

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—Celebrity zookeeper and animal TV show host Jack Hanna has been diagnosed with dementia and will retire from public life, his family said.

In a news release Wednesday, his family added that it's believed he now has Alzheimer's disease that has quickly progressed in the last few months.

The 74-year-old Hanna was director of the Columbus Zoo

from 1978 to 1992 and still serves as its director emeritus.

"Dad advocated for improved wildlife habitats and focused on connecting the community with animals," the statement signed by his three daughters said. Hanna continued to be a spokesperson for the Ohio zoo until he retired in 2020.

Hanna is also well-known for his live animal demonstrations on talk shows hosted by Johnny Carson, David Letterman and James Corden, increasing the profile of the Columbus Zoo and leading to

massive attendance increases over the years.

Hanna, who always wore khakis on every television appearance and in photos, hosted the popular syndicated TV show "Jack Hanna's Animal Adventures" from 1993 to 2008. He also hosted "Jack Hanna's Into the Wild," which started in 2007, and "Jack Hanna's Wild Countdown" until last year.

"While Dad's health has deteriorated quickly, we can assure you that his great sense of humor continues to shine through," the statement said.

"And yes, he still wears his khakis at home."

His family asked for privacy in light of COVID-19 restrictions.

"He has spent his life connecting people and wildlife because he has always believed that having people see and experience animals is key to engaging them in more impactful conversations," his family said. "Even though Dad is no longer able to travel and work in the same way, we know that his infectious enthusiasm has touched many hearts and will continue to be his legacy."



Wildlife advocate Jack Hanna poses for a portrait with a serval cub in New York on Oct. 12, 2015. AP

Former Vice President Mike Pence memoir set for 2023 release

NEW YORK (AP)—Former Vice President Mike Pence has a book deal. His autobiography, currently untitled, is scheduled to come out in 2023.

"I am grateful to have the opportunity to tell the story of my life in public service to the American people, from serving in Congress, to the Indiana Governor's office and as Vice President of the United States," Pence said in a statement. "I look forward to working with the outstanding team at Simon & Schuster to invite readers on a journey from a small town in Indiana to Washington, DC."

According to Pence's agent, David Vigliano, "all major publishers" competed for the book, and the deal was worth "well into seven figures." A top editor from a rival publishing house confirmed that amount. The editor was not authorized to discuss negotiations and asked not to be identified.

Simon & Schuster an-

nounced Wednesday that it also signed Pence to a second book but did not immediately provide details. Pence is the first major Trump administration official to have an announced deal since the president left office in January, although former White House advisor Kellyanne Conway and former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo are among those reportedly working on books.

At this time in 2017, former President Barack Obama; former first lady Michelle Obama; former Vice President Joe Biden and his wife, Jill Biden; and former Secretary of State John Kerry were among the recently departed Obama administration officials who had agreed to book deals. Several top publishing executives have told The Associated Press that they were not interested in a Trump memoir, citing the siege

of the US Capitol on Jan. 6 by Trump's supporters. Publishers also have expressed wariness about other members of the Trump administration, worrying about a backlash from readers, authors and employees.

A Pence memoir will likely be subject to similar tensions the former Vice President has faced since he refused then-

President Donald Trump's demands that he help overturn the election results. Among Democrats and others who opposed Trump, Pence is widely seen as Trump's loyal and complicit ally. Meanwhile, Trump supporters, and Trump himself, denounced him for not intervening Jan. 6 in Congress' formal certification of Biden's presidential victory.

The certification—which Pence had no power to change—was delayed for

hours after hundreds of Trump supporters, some chanting "Hang Mike Pence," stormed the U.S. Capitol.

Simon & Schuster Vice President and Publisher Dana Canedy said that Pence's book would be "revealing," without specifically saying whether he would address the events of Jan. 6.

"Vice President Pence's life and work, his journey as a Christian, the challenges and triumphs he has faced, and the lessons he has learned, tells an American story of extraordinary public service during a time of unrivaled public interest in our government and politics," Canedy said. "His revelatory autobiography will be the definitive book on one of the most consequential presidencies in American history."

A Simon & Schuster spokesperson declined comment on what Pence planned to say about Jan. 6, and referred back to Canedy's statement.



Pence

Pharrell wants federal probe into police shooting of cousin

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. (AP)—Grammy award-winning musician Pharrell Williams has called for a federal investigation into the fatal police shooting of his cousin along the Virginia coast.

Williams made the call in an Instagram post on Monday after attending his cousin's funeral in Virginia Beach, where Williams grew up.

"I had to speak at my cousin's funeral, and was choked up with emotions," he wrote on the social media post. "Too many unanswered City and State questions. Respectfully, I am calling for a Federal investigation. I also humbly ask that you all keep the family in prayer."

An email to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Virginia was not

immediately returned.

Donovan Lynch, 25, was killed in the early morning hours of March 27 along the city's popular oceanfront strip of hotels and restaurants shortly after two other nearby shootings unleashed chaos. Police said Lynch, a Black man, had a handgun and that it was recovered from the scene. But the officer's body camera had not been activated. The officer who killed Lynch is also Black.

The city's police department recently turned over the investigation into Lynch's death to the Virginia State Police.

Lynch lived in Virginia Beach. He was an offensive lineman for the University of Virginia's College at Wise during the 2017 and 2018 seasons and a 2019 graduate of the school.



Williams

Middle-aged man has bone to pick with middle-aged women

DEAR ABBY: I have something to say about "Still Fun in the South" (Jan. 4) and her complaint that single middle-aged men only look for younger women, instead of women their age. I am a 53-year-old widower. I have a six-figure income. I'm smart, healthy, easygoing and have a good life with many hobbies and interests.

On multiple dating apps, I have swiped right on dozens of women my age. My main criteria were that they weren't fanatically religious or rabidly political. Would you like to know how many swipe rights I received in return? Not one! I feel middle-aged women are far more picky than their younger counterparts, which is why I'm currently in a relationship with a woman in her mid-30s. I don't pursue younger women—they pursue me while the women around my age couldn't be bothered.

I realize my dating experience is anecdotal, and there are extenuating circumstances (COVID), but I don't like being lumped into a category and complained about as if middle-aged women share none of the responsibility.

I want to tell "Still Fun" that if she wants a relationship with someone her age, she needs to be a little less judgmental and picky and give those middle-aged men who actually show an interest a chance. She might find there's more to them than appears in a dating profile.

SEASONED IN SALT LAKE CITY

DEAR SEASONED: The responders to "Still Fun's" letter pointed out the advantages AND disadvantages of dating people younger, older and the same age. But the common denominator for successful dating, according to those readers, is to emphasize what you are happy about in your life and describe your passions and interests. Someone who exudes confidence, a love of life and who doesn't come across as desperate for a permanent move-in partner can do very well.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Our daughter is engaged to the most wonderful young man. We all got along very well, including his parents with us. After one discussion about politics, they realized we're on opposite sides of the spectrum and everything changed. They no longer call, or they hesitate to answer our calls.

We want to make things better because our daughter is deeply in love with their son, and she loves his parents. Could you please provide some suggestions?

OOPS! IN VIRGINIA

DEAR OOPS!: I can try, but there are no guarantees. While you and the other set of parents may disagree about solutions to the problems in this country, on one subject you should all be unified. That subject is wanting the happiness

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



of your children and grandchildren when you are blessed with them. For this reason, make an agreement to put aside political differences, never again discuss them and work cooperatively together toward your mutual goal. However, if they cannot agree, you and your husband must accept that there may be a strain in your relationship until time can heal the breach.

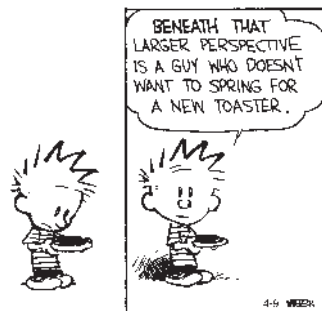
■ ■ ■

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



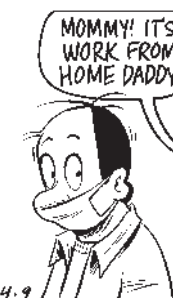
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



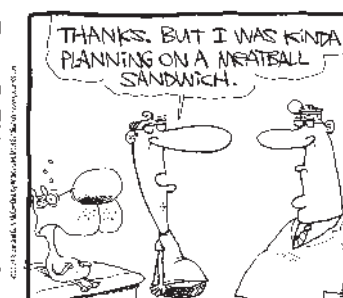
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- 1 Elroy's dog
- 6 Airline to Sweden
- 9 Roman 1150
- 12 "Real Time" host
- 13 Play segment
- 14 Bond rating
- 15 Supreme Court Justice
- 16 1991 John Grisham legal thriller
- 18 Track events
- 20 Notion
- 21 "The Matrix" hero
- 23 —
- 24 Broadway rosters
- 25 Admin. aide
- 27 Answers an invitation
- 29 Make happy
- 31 Polar

DOWN

- 1 Soul, to
- 2 Erie
- 3 1979
- 4 Actress
- 5 Race
- 6 Nymph
- 7 German exclamation
- 8 Fr.
- 9 Hotel
- 10 Insertion
- 11 Tibetan monks
- 17 Debacle
- 19 Buenos —
- 21 Snooze
- 22 Immigrant's course (Abbr.)
- 24 EMT's skill
- 26 Ploy
- 28 Flower holders
- 30 Take to court
- 32 HBO crime series
- 33 "There's no — team!"
- 34 Iowa college
- 36 Car radio button
- 38 Strictly —
- 39 Taj —
- 40 Pizza places
- 42 Barrel strip
- 45 Party cheese
- 46 Done with
- 48 iPhone download
- 50 Computer key
- 51 Drench

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 4-9

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Elle Fanning, 23; Leighton Meester, 35; Keshia Knight Pulliam, 42; Dennis Quaid, 67.

Happy Birthday: Choose your battles wisely this year. Keep the peace when dealing with friends and family. Kindness will get you further than criticism. Put more emphasis on personal growth and less on trying to change others. Look at every angle of each situation you face, and do what's best for you. Your happiness is in your hands. Be true to yourself. Your numbers are 5, 11, 21, 24, 30, 47, 49.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Make a personal adjustment to the way you live and handle others. Focus on fitness, health and exploring the things that bring you the most joy. Don't share secrets or give anyone the chance to take advantage of you. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't rely on others. If you want to change, roll up your shirt sleeves and put in the time and effort to make it happen. Keep your plans simple, doable and within your means. Don't get caught in someone else's dreams. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Broaden your horizons. Keep up with technology, what's trending and how to use your skills to make a profit. Be aware of any limitations or jurisdictions that can stand in your way. Work with people you trust to do things properly. **

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Do sufficient research. Take the initiative, and don't rely on someone to do things for you. Using force will work against you. Look for an innova-

tive way to use your skills, and you will reach your objective. Don't fold under pressure. *****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Stop worrying about what others do; concentrate on your abilities. Educational pursuits, personal growth and self-improvement are favored. Revisit your relationships with others, and consider what's best for you. Romance is in the stars. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Remain calm, regardless of what others do or say. Go about your business, and make changes that suit your lifestyle and your goals. Invest more time and money in acquiring skills, knowledge or technology that will help you excel. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You'll receive false information. Verify what you hear before you spread the word. A joint venture or shared expenses will cause stress. Research, and choose options that protect you from anyone trying to push you in the wrong direction. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Get involved in something you believe in or can do to help others. Sharing information and skills will lead to unexpected rewards. You won't welcome a lifestyle change, but it will be to your advantage in the end. Follow your passion. *****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Take a moment to consider what's fact and what's fiction. You'll be given mixed messages from people you think you can trust. Look at every angle and summarize what's truthful. Self-improvement will bring the most gratification. **

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Look for a unique way to put your skills and ideas to use. Refuse to let anyone discourage you from doing your own thing. A change you make at home will make it easier for you to accomplish your goals. ****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Take care of personal business. Refrain from sharing secrets or letting others get involved in your plans. It's best to have everything in place before you present what you intend to pursue. The element of surprise will have the most significant effect. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): An emotional situation will develop if you aren't upfront regarding your plans. Keep everyone in the loop and deal with issues as they arise, and you will accomplish the most. Play it safe, and you'll avoid regret. ***

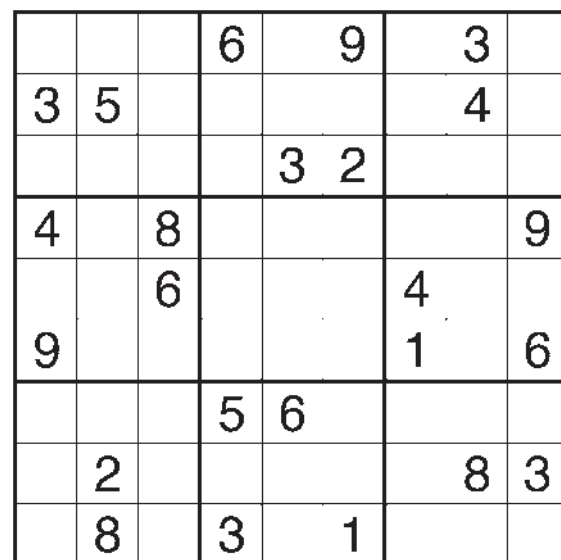
Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, aggressive and imaginative. You are articulate and charitable.

☾: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☼: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼☼: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☼☼☼: Aim high; start new projects. ☼☼☼☼: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★★★

4/99

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

5	6	4	1	7	9	2	8	3
2	1	8	3	5	4	6	7	9
3	9	7	6	2	8	4	5	1
7	3	6	2	4	1	8	9	5
4	5	2	9	8	3	7	1	6
1	8	9	7	6	5	3	4	2
8	2	5	4	1	6	9	3	7
9	7	1	8	3	2	5	6	4
6	4	3	5	9	7	1	2	8

20 Lately, Love ★★★★★

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them. Circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

KEEP THE DOPAMINE FLOWING

Solution: 8 letters

T E E T E L H T A P L P L A Y
R N X C I B O R E A E V R E N
E E E N A M M O V E M E N T O
A R R M U R S P L N R A E L I
D G C S H T D S W I M E E H T
M Y I E Y S R I I L M S R T O
I C S G C R I I O L L H E L M
L Y E K N N O L T U B I E A E
L C S M A I A M P I E K R E H
A L E T A I D E M O E A H C
R E H G R S E K A M O N C Y T
E S O A L I S G S B E C O A E
N Y I L P A V A C I D J C S R
I N E N E P O E G K N U R A T
M C E B O D Y G W E I G H T S

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Accomplishment, Acid, Aerobic, Athlete, Bike, Bliss, Body, Cardio, Career, Cells, Cycles, Dance, Emotion, Energy, Enjoy, Exercise, Game, Goal, Happy, Health, Hike, Learn, Massage, Meditate, Meet, Memory, Mineral, Movement, Music, Nerve, Nutrition, Open, Play, Pulse, Skate, Skiing, Sleep, Sport, Stretch, Strive, Swim, Thrill, Train, Treadmill, Weights, Yoga

Yesterday's Answer: Goodbye

Jo's Jewels Collector's Edition is back by popular demand! Purchase online at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-642C.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Booker, Paul lead Suns past Jazz in OT in top NBA showdown



PHOENIX (AP)—Devin Booker scored 35 points, Chris Paul added 29 and the Phoenix Suns beat the Utah Jazz 117-113 in overtime Wednesday night in an entertaining matchup between the top two teams in the NBA.

The Suns scored the first five points in overtime and never trailed again to pull within 1 1/2 games of league-leading Utah.

Booker had a couple of clutch mid-range jumpers to keep the Jazz behind and Paul made a 3-pointer with a minute left that pushed Phoenix ahead 114-108.

Utah pulled to 114-112 on Mike Conley's layup with 21 seconds left, but could never tie it. Paul hit two free throws with 7.8 seconds left to finally seal it and wrap up the season series with a game left. Phoenix has won seven in a row.

The Suns pushed ahead 100-96 in the fourth quarter on a 3-pointer by Jae Crowder with two minutes left. Donovan Mitchell made a contested 3-pointer with 10.4 seconds left for Utah to tie it at 102.

Booker's 3 at the buzzer was off the mark.

Mitchell led Utah with 41 points. Bojan Bogdanovic added 20 points, and Rudy Gobert had 16 points and 18 rebounds.

Phoenix's Deandre Ayton added 18 points and 12 rebounds.

Nets 139, Pelicans 111

In New York, Kevin Durant returned from a 23-game absence to spark Brooklyn's most explosive half of the season, finishing with 17 points and perfect shooting in the Nets' blowout victory over

New Orleans.

Durant came off the bench with about 7 1/2 minutes left in the second quarter and by the time the period ended the Nets had 79 points and a 20-point halftime lead. Brooklyn was a sizzling 14 for 18 (78%) in its 43-point quarter.

Durant went 5 for 5 and added seven rebounds and five assists in 19 minutes in his return from a strained left hamstring. He was originally listed in the starting lineup, but was removed in a revised lineup distributed minutes before his first game since Feb. 13.

The All-Star forward got an ovation from the first home crowd he'd played in front of with the Nets. Barclays Center only began allowing limited crowds on Feb. 23.

Kyrie Irving scored 24 points and LaMarcus Aldridge had 22 in the Nets' ninth straight home win.

Eric Bledsoe had 26 points for the Pelicans before being ejected in the third quarter. Zion Williamson had just 16 on 4-for-12 shooting, ending his streak of 25 straight games with 20 points and 50% shooting. That tied Shaquille O'Neal for the longest such streak since 1954-55, when the shot clock debuted.

Wizards 131, Magic 116

In Orlando, Fla., Bradley Beal returned from a five-game absence to score 26 points, Russell Westbrook had his 20th triple-double of the season and Washington made a season-best 19 3-pointers to beat Orlando.

Washington snapped a four-game losing streak, but not before it blew most of a 21-point third-quarter lead. The Wizards also had a second-half meltdown Monday night, when



they coughed up a 19-point lead in a loss to Toronto.

Out since March 27 with a hip contusion, Beal was added to the starting lineup just prior to tipoff and showed no signs of rust. He made 11 of 19 shots and 4 of 6 3s.

Westbrook had with 23 points, 15 assists and 14 rebounds in 26 minutes. He has five triple-doubles in his past six games and is the NBA's only player averaging double digits in points, rebounds and assists.

Terrence Ross scored 24 points for Orlando.

Nuggets 106, Spurs 96

In Denver, Nikola Jokic had 25 points, 10 assists and nine rebounds to help the surging Denver beat San Antonio.

Jokic just missed 13th triple-double of the season. Michael Porter Jr. added 18 points and 10 rebounds in the opener of the two-game set in Denver.

Denver has won seven in a row and has yet to lose in six games since Aaron Gordon and JaVale McGee came over in trade-deadline deals. Gordon had nine points, and McGee provided energy off the bench in the second half.

Derrick White and Dejounte Murray scored 18 points each for San Antonio.

The teams will meet again Friday night.

Pacers 141, Timberwolves 137

In Indianapolis, Aaron Holiday scored 22 points, brother Justin Holiday had 21 and short-handed Indiana beat Minnesota.

The Pacers were without All-Star forward Domantas Sabonis and three other injured starters, and had lost nine of 10 home games.

Karl Anthony-Towns led NBA-worst Minnesota with 32 points. Anthony Edwards had 27.

Rockets 102, Mavericks 93

In Houston, John Wall had 31 points and seven assists in his return from injury and Houston beat Dallas to snap a five-game skid.

Wall missed the previous four games with swelling in his right knee. Christian Wood added 22 points and 10 rebounds for the Rockets.

Kristaps Porzingis had 23 points and 12 rebounds in his return for Dallas after missing a game with a sprained right wrist. Luka Doncic also had 23 points.

Celtics 101, Knicks 99

In Boston, Jaylen Brown had 32 points and 10 rebounds and Boston rallied in the fourth quarter to beat New York.

Jayson Tatum committed eight turnovers but finished with 25 points and 10 rebounds. Marcus Smart added 17 points, 14 in the fourth quarter, and nine assists for the Celtics.

Phoenix Suns guard Devin Booker, right, dishes off around Utah Jazz center Rudy Gobert (27) during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Wednesday, April 7, 2021, in Phoenix.

Tristan Thompson had seven points, eight rebounds and three blocks in his return after missing 12 games due to the league's health and safety protocols.

RJ Barrett scored 29 points for New York.

Grizzlies 131, Hawks 113

In Atlanta, Grayson Allen scored 17 of his season-high 30 points in a dominant third quarter, leading Memphis past short-handed Atlanta.

Ja Morant added 14 of his 19 points in the Grizzlies' decisive third quarter. Memphis outscored Atlanta 43-23 in the period to break open a close game.

Jonas Valanciunas had 19 points and 11 rebounds in the Grizzlies' fourth consecutive win. Bogdan Bogdanovic led Atlanta with 24 points.

Hornets 113, Thunder 102

In Oklahoma City, Jalen McDaniels had a career-high 21 points in his second career start to help Charlotte beat Oklahoma City.

McDaniels also had six rebounds and three assists. Terry Rozier scored 17 points, Miles Bridges had 16 and Devonte' Graham and Cody Zeller added 15 each, and Zeller had 14 rebounds.

Aleksej Pokusevski led the Thunder with a career-high 25 points behind a franchise rookie-record seven 3-pointers. Theo Maledon also had 25 points.

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP)—It was April 7, 2003. Exactly 18 years ago Wednesday, Syracuse defeated Kansas to win the NCAA men's basketball national championship. The biggest win in school history, the biggest win in the Hall of Fame career of Orange coach Jim Boheim.

A couple hours after the game ended, Boheim made a phone call.

Even after the biggest win of his life, Augusta National was on his mind.

"I had a deal with a guy that if we won the national championship, he'd get me onto Augusta National," Boheim said. "It was like 3 in the morning, right after the championship game, and we called to make sure it would happen."

And it did.

This is the lure of Augusta National. If you find your way onto the grounds—either as a patron for the Masters, or in

The home of the Masters is a draw for basketball's best, too

the even smaller club of people who can say that they played the course—it's a memory for life. And in recent years, basketball coaches and players seem to have become particularly fond of the chance to be where the Masters happens.

"It's a special place, obviously," said Golden State guard Stephen Curry, who has played Augusta National a couple times. "There's a lot of history there. You get to watch the tournament every year, you feel like you know every hole if you've been there before or not. And if you get to play it, it's even that much more special to have that experience and walk those same grounds."

Curry half-seriously considered walking off Augusta after his first hole there; he made birdie, so he technically could have said for the rest of his life that

he was under par on the course where they play the Masters.

To him, Augusta has "a majestic nature."

"It's pretty awesome," Curry said.

The Warriors don't have a game Thursday, so Curry will get to watch a good deal of the first round, at least. And he won't be the only NBA guy finding time to watch plenty of golf throughout the rest of this week, either.

"Hypothetically, if I could play there, it's probably what the kids want to do when they want to go to Disney World with a pass and no other people there, no lines to wait in and free food and free toys and gifts," Miami forward Andre Iguodala said playfully, because he didn't want to actually come out and confirm that he's played Augusta Na-

tional. "That's what it's like ... I would imagine."

Iguodala has played there; the 2015 NBA Finals MVP for Golden State got on with Curry and some other members of the Warriors' organization on an off day a few years ago. Iguodala left with such respect for the course that he even changed the way he practices golf; he's tried to find ways to account for uphill, downhill and sidehill lies, which are all part of the charm and challenge at the Masters.

"You have a lot of respect for guys who win that tournament," Iguodala said, noting that nobody has a lucky win at Augusta National. "You've got to go get it."

For some in basketball, Augusta National is a place to compete.



press conference. So, I knew then, that if you can't even think about golf when you're at Augusta National, the decision that I felt about not being the right person any longer, that was pretty much confirmed."

Even those who are relatively new to the game get Augusta National's significance.

Grant Hill spent almost two decades in the NBA, played his college basketball at Duke's Cameron Indoor Stadium, and has an Olympic gold medal.

But yes, to him, Augusta was a huge deal.

"I've only been once and had the good fortune of visiting Butler Cabin with Jim Nantz," Hill said, referring to his Final Four television broadcast partner. "Quite a treat, and I just started playing golf maybe four years ago."

Boheim had been to the Masters as a patron in 1997, when Tiger Woods won the green jacket for the first time.

Braves sweep doubleheader with Nationals



WASHINGTON (AP)—Atlanta pinch-hitter Pablo Sandoval drove a two-run homer to the deepest part of the ballpark off a Washington reliever who took over after Stephen Strasburg's six scoreless innings Wednesday, lifting the Braves to a 2-0 victory over the Nationals and a doubleheader sweep.

Sandoval drove a 96 mph fastball from Tanner Rainey (0-1) more than 400 feet following Dansby Swanson's two-out single in the seventh and final inning.

Luke Jackson (1-0) earned the win in Game 2, and Sean Newcomb got three strikeouts for the save.

Ronald Acuña Jr. doubled and had a pair of singles as Atlanta won the opener 7-6.

The Braves put up five runs in the second inning off Erick Fedde (0-1), then wound up barely holding on with a save by Will Smith. Andrew Stevenson grounded into a game-ending double play.

Josh Tomlin (1-0) pitched two hitless innings.

Washington is missing nine players because of a coronavirus outbreak that led to the postponement of the team's first four games. Four players tested positive for COVID-19, and another five who would have been on the 26-man roster are under quarantine.

Reds 11, Pirates 4

In Cincinnati, Tyler Naquin hit another leadoff homer, this time off Chad Kuhl (0-1),

Kyle Farmer added a two-run double in the first, and Cincinnati won its fifth straight.

Luis Castillo (1-1) allowed four hits in seven innings, struck out five and walked one.

Erik Gonzalez hit his first career grand slam in the Pirates ninth off Amir Garrett.

Red Sox 9, Rays 2

In Boston, Christian Vázquez homered, Xander Bogaerts had three hits and J.D. Martinez went for extra bases for the seventh game in a row as Boston completed a three-game sweep.

Nathan Eovaldi (1-1) allowed one run, three hits and three walks over seven innings with seven strikeouts. The Red Sox, swept by lowly Baltimore in their opening series over the weekend, beat the defending AL champion Rays in three straight by a combined 26-9.

Ryan Yarbrough (0-1), who pitched 5 2/3 shutout innings in his first outing this season, added three more scoreless before Bogaerts singled in a run and scored on Vázquez's line drive over the Green Monster in the fourth.

Indians 4, Royals 2

In Cleveland, José Ramírez's second two-run homer of the game snapped a tie in the eighth against Greg Holland (0-1).

Shane Bieber struck out 12 for the second straight game, allowing two runs and three hits in 6 1/3 innings. Emmanuel Clase (1-0) pitched the eighth — all nine of his fastballs were over 100 mph



— and Nick Wittgren worked the ninth for his first save since Sept. 4, 2019.

Salvador Pérez homered for the Royals.

Rockies 8, Diamondbacks 0

In Denver, Antonio Senzatela pitched eight electric innings on a cool evening, Chris Owings had three extra-base hits before leaving with right leg soreness, and Colorado beat Arizona to snapped a four-game skid.

Senzatela (1-1) scattered four hits by mixing in a sizzling slider with a fastball that was moving all over. He walked two and struck out three. Senzatela was lifted for a pinch-hitter in the bottom of the eighth after throwing 96 pitches.

Owings had two doubles, a triple and drove in two runs as he increased his average to

.500. He appeared to hurt his leg on an awkward catch in right field in the fifth. He was replaced by Sam Hilliard to start the sixth.

It was a second straight rough outing for Madison Bumgarner (0-1), who allowed five runs and eight hits over five innings. He's now surrendered 11 runs over nine innings.

Twins 3, Tigers 2

In Detroit, Jorge Polanco hit a two-run double in the sixth.

Kenta Maeda (1-0) pitched six mostly strong innings, allowing two runs and seven hits, and Alex Colomé pitched two innings for his second save.

Akil Baddoo hit an RBI triple and threw a runner out from left field — another impressive day in this stellar start to his big league career. Matthew Boyd (1-1) allowed three runs in seven innings.

Rangers 2, Blue Jays 1

In Arlington, Texas, Kyle Gibson (1-0) struck out eight and allowed six hits over six scoreless innings. Ian Kennedy, the third Texas reliever, struck out three around a hit in the ninth for his second save, both in less than 24 hours.

Nick Solak homered off left-hander Hyun Jin Ryu (0-1), who struck out seven without a walk over seven innings.

Marcus Semien hit his third homer for the Blue Jays, a leadoff shot in the eighth.

Brewers 4, Cubs 2

In Chicago, Lorenzo Cain hit his second homer of the game, a three-run shot in the 10th off Brandon Workman (0-1). Cain also hit a solo homer in the eighth.

Brewers starter Brandon Woodruff had a no-hit bid going until Ian Happ led off the seventh with a clean single.

Joc Pederson hit his first home run for the Cubs, a tying drive in the eighth.

Josh Hader (2-0) pitched a scoreless ninth.

Athletics 4, Dodgers 3

In Oakland, Calif., Mitch Moreland hit an RBI single off Jimmy Nelson (0-1) with one out in the 10th, and the Athletics got their first win after coming within one loss of what would have been its first 0-7 start.

Oakland tied it in the ninth off Kenley Jansen when Matt Chapman scored on Elvis Andrus' sacrifice fly. Chapman also hit a solo homer earlier in the game.

Yusmerio Petit (1-0) pitched a scoreless 10th.

Trevor Bauer allowed two runs and three hits in 6 2/3 innings, striking out 10 for the second straight start.

Giants 3, Padres 2

In San Diego, Alex Dickerson scored on Donovan Solano's sacrifice fly in the 10th off Tim Hill (0-1).

San Diego's Jurickson Profar reached third in the 10th on Kim Ha-seong's grounder before Wandy Peralta struck out Jorge Mateo and got rookie

Atlanta Braves outfielders Ender Inciarte, left, Ronald Acuna Jr., and Marcell Ozuna celebrate after the first baseball game of a doubleheader at Nationals Park, Wednesday, April 7, 2021, in Washington.

Tucupita Marciano to fly out to end it for his first career save.

San Diego's Wil Myers tied the game at 2 with a homer in the eighth off Tyler Rogers (1-0).

Phillies 8, Mets 2

In Philadelphia, Alec Bohm and J.T. Realmuto each hit a three-run homer, Rhys Hoskins had a solo shot and Philadelphia took two of three from a division rival after opening with a three-game sweep of three-time defending NL East champion Atlanta.

Connor Brogdon (3-0) got five outs to earn his third win in six games.

Mets starter David Peterson (0-1) surrendered six runs and seven hits in four innings.

Cardinals 7, Marlins 0

In Miami, Yadier Molina hit a two-run homer and Dylan Carlson added a grand slam as St. Louis finished a three-game sweep that dropped the Marlins to 1-5 for the first time since 2015.

Jack Flaherty (1-0) allowed one hit in six innings, a leadoff single by Corey Dickerson. Genesis Cabrera and Jordan Hicks finished the three-hitter.

Pablo Lopez (0-1) allowed two runs and three hits in 6 2/3 innings.

Mariners 8, White Sox 4

In Seattle, Kyle Seager slapped an opposite-field, bases-clearing double for the big blow in Seattle's seven-run sixth inning, and the Mariners avoided a sweep.

Taylor Trammell, J.P. Crawford and Jose Marmolejos all had RBI singles in the inning, and Mitch Haniger added a sacrifice fly. Reliever Matt Foster (0-1) recorded just two outs, and allowed five hits and five earned runs before getting lifted.

Will Vest (1-0) allowed one run in 1 1/3 innings.

Orioles 4, Yankees 3, 11 innings

In New York, Orioles right fielder Anthony Santander threw out Gio Urshela trying to score on a fly ball in the 11th for the final out.

Pinch-hitter Chance Sisco had a go-ahead single in the top of the inning off Chad Green (0-1). Baltimore was out 13-4.

César Valdez (1-0), working primarily with a 76 mph changeup, pitched 2 1/3 innings, and Paul Fry got his first save.

MLB BRIEFS

Springer has another issue while awaiting Blue Jays debut

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—George Springer is now dealing with another issue while waiting to make his debut with the Toronto Blue Jays, after starting the season on the injured list with a strained left oblique muscle. Springer was on track to play Thursday for the Blue Jays in their first home game before feeling tightness in his right quad while running the bases. Manager Charlie Montoyo said before Wednesday's series finale at Texas that Springer ran the bases after taking live batting practice before Tuesday's game. Montoyo said there were no issues with the oblique. The 2017 World Series MVP with Houston signed a \$150 million, six-year contract during the offseason. Montoyo said the Blue Jays were still gathering information on Springer's quad and waiting for the results of an MRI exam. He didn't know the severity of the additional soft-tissue is-

sue. "Everybody's concerned because those injuries, you just never know where they are," Montoyo said. "It's tough because you've got to be careful, just like with the oblique. Because if you pull it worse then you're really out for a long time. So that's the one thing about those injuries for anybody, that you have to be patient, be careful." Springer opened the season on the injured list after not playing any exhibition games since March 21.

Arizona places reliever Chris Devenski on restricted list

DENVER (AP)—Arizona reliever Chris Devenski was placed on the restricted list Wednesday by the Diamondbacks, who did not give a reason. To take his place on the roster, the Diamondbacks selected the contract of right-hander Anthony Swarzak from the team's alternate training site. The move came about 20 minutes before the Diamondbacks' first pitch between the Dia-

mondbacks and the Colorado Rockies at Coors Field. Devenski earned a save Sunday at San Diego, his first in nearly three years. The 30-year-old signed as a minor league free agent on Jan. 26. Devenski has a 16-16 career mark with a 3.39 ERA in spanning 227 games that includes seven starts. He spent five seasons with Houston, but was limited to four games last season. He had a bone spur removed from his right elbow last September. He is signed to a contract calling for a \$1 million salary while in the major leagues.

James Paxton heads to IL as Mariners await MRI results

SEATTLE (AP)—The Seattle Mariners placed left-handed starter James Paxton on the 10-day injured list Wednesday with a forearm strain in his pitching arm. Seattle also put starting left fielder Jake Fraley on the 10-day IL with a left hamstring strain he suffered while mak-

ing a diving catch in Tuesday's loss to the Chicago White Sox. Manager Scott Servais said both players underwent MRIs on Wednesday morning and the team was still awaiting results. Paxton left in the second inning after just 24 pitches, grimacing after throwing a 92 mph fastball to Andrew Vaughn. It was the first start of his second stint with Seattle. "Leaving last night he was a little bit more optimistic that it wasn't anything too serious. I know he woke up today and it's stiff as expected," Servais said of Paxton. "Really, it's hard to speculate until you know exactly what's going on there and the only way you're going to know is you get the reading on the MRI." Seattle recalled outfielder Braden Bishop and right-hander Ljay Newsome from its alternate training site to take the roster spots of both players. Newsome will move into the bullpen and Nick Margevicius will take Paxton's spot in the starting rotation.

NMA joins global effort to shape athletics future

The Northern Marianas Athletics has expressed its full support for World Athletics' unprecedented campaign that would set the future strategy for athletics across the globe.

The campaign, dubbed "Global Conversation for the Future of Athletics," offers the opportunity for all those with an active interest in the sport to share their opinion on the steps that need to be taken by World Athletics and its 214 member federations, including NMA.

The result of the feedback, once compiled, will be the establishment of the World Plan for World Athletics 2022-30, which will set out the roadmap for the growth and development of athletics during this eight-year period.

"NMA is excited to be part of the World Athletics Plan to

strategize our sport into the future. The past 12 months have been challenging and we want to include the views of everyone in these discussions, every input is important to the future of the sport of athletics. This is your chance to have your say in our future."

For NMA, the outreach campaign offers a unique opportunity to find key areas of growth for the sport in CNMI. Over the coming weeks, the organization will arrange a group of initiatives with key stakeholders designed to encourage and facilitate unprecedented levels of feedback.

This includes participation in a global survey on athletics. Whether an athlete, coach, sponsor, volunteer, or a fan, NMA wants to hear your perspective on the future of the sport, with all areas under discussion. To



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI's Zarinae Sapong, is seen here racing in the 100m qualifying run in the 2019 IAAF World Athletics Championships at the Khalifa International Stadium in Doha, Qatar. The CNMI does not only compete in world events, but has also joined a campaign that would set the future strategy for athletics across the globe.

give your views, please click the following link <https://surveyhub.deloitte.co.uk/wix/p402654971948.aspx>

The compilation of the feedback and ongoing outreach will be led by World Athletics' World Plan Working Group, chaired by Willie Banks, and supported by all member federations. The World Plan will then be finalized in the Summer 2021 by the World Athletics Council before being put forward for approval by the World Athletics member federations at

the 53rd World Athletics Congress in November 2021.

On the launch of the outreach campaign, World Athletics President Seb Coe said "Today is a monumental day in the future of global Athletics. As the international governing body, we want to base our future plans on the experiences and knowledge of our vast Athletics community, and it is only right that we give everyone with an active interest in our sport the chance to give their views and insights."

"We are in a remarkable period of change in society, and one that presents challenges but also new opportunities for Athletics. By taking stock and listening to all those involved with Athletics at every level, we can ensure that together, we are ready to fulfil such opportunities and continue to strive," he added. (NMA)

Little League election this Saturday

The Saipan Little League Baseball, Inc. will be holding a meeting and elections on April 10.



10am at the conference room of the Department of Public Works' Grounds and Transportation office in Lower Base.

SLLB is calling all managers, coaches, volunteers, and other interested individuals and groups to attend the meeting and election set for

For more information, contact Mike Borja at 483-2526, Piding Tenorio at 285-1024, and Annie Flores at

Oleai track to close to accommodate All Schools meet



The Oleai Sports Complex track and field facility will be closed to the public on certain dates and times from April 13 to May 15 to accommodate the 2020-2021 CNMI Public School System All Schools Track and Field Championships Series.

The Northern Marianas Sports Association, which manages the facility, encourages walkers, joggers, and other users of the track and field to use pathways, walkways, and fields during this time.

For any questions or more information, please contact NMSA at 234-4672.

The schedule for the series is as follows:

DATE	ACTIVITY	TIME
April 13	Elementary	3pm to 6:30pm
April 15	Elementary	3pm to 6:30pm
April 16	Elementary	3pm to 6:30pm
April 20	Elementary	3pm to 6:30pm
April 21	Middle/High School	3pm to 6:30pm
April 22	Elementary	3pm to 6:30pm
April 23	Elementary	3pm to 6:30pm
April 24	Middle/High School	7am to 12nn
April 27	Elementary	3pm to 6:30pm
April 28	Middle/High School	3pm to 6:30pm
April 29	Elementary	3pm to 6:30pm
May 1	Middle/High School	7am to 12nn



NORTHERN MARIANAS ATHLETICS

The Oleai Sports Complex track and field facility will be closed to the public on certain dates and times to give way to the 2020-2021 CNMI Public School System All Schools Track and Field Championships Series.

May 7	Elementary Finals	3pm to 7pm
May 8	Elementary Finals	7am to 2pm
May 14	Middle/High School Finals	3pm to 7pm
May 15	Middle/High School Finals	7am to 2pm (PR)

CNMI'S

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the JWA's first Foil Japan Cup tournament which also aims to prepare surfers for the Paris Olympic 2024.

JWA is a non-profit organization that runs various windsurfing competitions in Japan to promote and raise the level

of Japanese windsurfing.

The event was held in Miyakojima, an island in Okinawa that is a little larger than Saipan and is known to have some of the best windsurfing spots in Japan.

Windfoil is a new style of windsurfing that uses hydrofoil to lift a windsurfing board out of the water.

WOO

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Ryu earned a 5-4, 5-3 victory over Andy Kim who advanced to the quarters after besting Jun Wang, 4-0, 4-0. Ryu also swept his Round 1 match against Quintin Ramsey, 6-0, 6-0.

Meanwhile, 4.0 mixed doubles champ Aquino bagged the third-place title by walkover.

In the U12 mixed doubles division, June Yu and Ian Chae clinched the title after a 4-1, 4-2 victory over Eamon Tang and Taher Shakir.

The eventual champions automatically advanced to the semifinals after getting a bye in the opening round. In the semis, Yu and Chae came out on top with a tough 4-1, 2-4, 10-7 victory over Ji Hun Park and Quido Lucas Jambor, who reached the Final Four after getting a bye.

Tang and Shakir advanced to the finals after a successful semifinal match against Stephen Yeom and Yutaka Kadokura. The former had a

rough first set, 1-4, but leveled the playing field in the second, 5-4. The duo delivered the final blow with a 10-8 win in the super tie breaker set.

The second-place duo managed to advance to the finals after sweeping its quarterfinals match against Jeong Bin Park and Lina Tsukagoshi with a 5-3, 4-1 victory.

The Yeom-Kadokura duo completed the Top 3 with a 4-1, 4-0 victory over Park and Jambor.

Cody Shimizu and Hoo Wang bagged the U18 mixed doubles division title following a competitive match against Jun Wang and Maya Shimizu.

Cody and Hoo edged their foe in the first set, 4-0, but lost momentum and lost the second, 2-4. However, the champs secured their win with a 10-8 tie breaker set.

The 2021 SIS Student Council Tennis Tournament was sanctioned by the Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association.

Nike suspends sponsorship of Deshaun Watson amid allegations



Nike has suspended its endorsement contract with Deshaun Watson amid allegations of sexual assault and harassment against the Houston Texans quarterback.

"We are deeply concerned by the disturbing allegations and have suspended Deshaun Watson," Nike said in a statement released Wednesday. "We will continue to closely monitor the situation."

Watson has been accused of sexual assault or harassment in lawsuits filed by 22 women. One of those women, Ashley Solis, said Tuesday during a news conference that she was assaulted and traumatized when she tried to give Watson a massage in March 2020.

The Associated Press usually

does not name victims of sexual assault, but Solis has chosen to publicly identify herself.

Watson's attorney, Rusty Hardin, has called the allegations "meritless" and questioned the claims against Watson, alleging they were made following a failed attempt to blackmail his client.

The Houston Police Department said last week it was investigating Watson after someone had filed a report with the agency about Watson. Tony Buzbee, who represents the 22 women, said it was not Solis but another of his clients who filed the first report with police.

The NFL has been in contact with Buzbee during its own investigation.

Watson was signed to a deal with Nike in 2017 when he entered the NFL. Last November, he teamed with the com-

pany to provide jerseys for Yates High School in Houston. George Floyd graduated from Yates in 1993 and played football for the school.

Watson's red Nike cleats that he wore in Houston's 53-32 win over the Atlanta Falcons during Week 5 in 2019 were sent to the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Watson was the first player in NFL history to pass for at least 400 yards and five TDs with five or fewer incompletions in a single game.

Solis said in her statement that since the alleged assault, she suffers from panic attacks, anxiety, depression and is no longer comfortable working as a massage therapist.

"I got into massage therapy to heal people, to heal their minds and bodies, to bring peace to their souls. Deshaun Watson has robbed me of

that," Solis said, adding that her lawsuit was not about seeking money.

But in a statement, Hardin alleged that Buzbee sought "\$100,000 in hush money" on behalf of Solis before she filed her lawsuit.

In a recent email to season ticket holders, Texans chairman Cal McNair, whose family owns the team, said they were aware of the lawsuits against Watson and that the team takes "these allegations very seriously."

"While we await the conclusion of these investigations, we express our strong stance against any form of sexual assault. Our family and the entire Houston Texans organization are deeply troubled by any form of abuse and we condemn this type of behavior," McNair said.



Booker, Paul
lead Suns past
Jazz in OT in top
NBA showdown

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Braves sweep
doubleheader
with Nationals

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Woo dominates men's division



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ji Min Woo topped the men's single division of the 2021 SIS Student Council Tennis Tournament, coasting past foes last Sunday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ji Min Woo, right, topped fellow CNMI Junior National team member Sam Ryu in the finals of the 2021 SIS Student Council Tennis Tournament last Sunday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

Ji Min Woo topped the men's singles division of the 2021 SIS Student Council Tennis Tournament, coasting past foes last Sunday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

Woo, who has represented the CNMI Junior National Team in regional tournaments in previous years, conquered his fellow national team member Sam Ryu with a 6-2, 6-1 victory in the tournament finals.

The seasoned champ coasted through the tourney, first

advancing to the quarterfinals with an easy Round 1 match against Daniel Kang where he hammered the latter, 4-0, 4-0. In the quarterfinals, Woo gained access to the semis after a 4-2, 4-0 victory over Isaac Heo who beat Min Cho in the first round, 4-1, 4-2.

In the semis, Woo eased

past Sean Lee with a 4-2, 4-1 victory, landing the division's first final seat. The latter struggled to make it to the Final Four against David Kwon. He won the first set 4-1 before losing the second, 2-4. However, Lee took the win in the super tiebreaker with a close 10-7 victory. Lee also challenged Hyeon Bin Jeong in the first round, taking an easy 4-0,

4-0 victory.

Ryu conquered Patrick Vincent Aquino in the semis, outplaying him in the first set, 5-3, before losing his lead in the second, 2-4. Finally, in the super tiebreaker, Ryu, determined to win, prevailed with a 10-6 victory.

Back in the quarterfinals,

See WOO on Page 23

CNMI's Tajima earns honors in windsurfing tourney

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

Wataru Tajima received honors in the Japan Windsurfing Association's inaugural 2021 Miyako Foil Japan Cup held from April 2 to 4 in Miyakojima.

Tajima, who was born on Saipan in 2000 and moved to Japan last year, represented the CNMI in the event where he ranked second place in the overall amateur category and 3rd place in the professional category against over 30 other individuals.

In addition, Tajima bagged third place in the Downwind-Foil race and fifth place in the Pro Upwind-Foil race.

According to Tajima, who has been windsurfing on the

waves of Micro Beach since he was a child, he joined the inaugural event because it was a good opportunity to race with other known windsurfers.

"I just moved to Japan last year for windfoil since I cannot practice windfoil on Saipan. It was a good opportunity for me to race with famous Japanese professional foil windsurfers," he said.

He said in terms of his results, he did his best and is satisfied with the honors he received for his first race of the event. He also plans to enter more tournaments as well as the Paris Olympics in 2024.

"We could only compete



the races on the last day due to the wind condition. I am satisfied with the result of the tournament under this condition. I am planning to

try more tournaments to aim for Paris Olympic 2024," he said.

Tajima has participated in the Windsurfing World Cup tournament 2018, representing CNMI, and also became a representative for the World Cup tournament 2019 and 2020 but could not attend due to work in 2019 and then due to COVID-19 in 2020.

A total of 30 Japanese foil windsurfers participated in

See CNMI'S on Page 23



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Wataru Tajima placed second place in the overall amateur category and third place in the professional category over 30 other individuals during the Japan Windsurfing Association's inaugural 2021 Miyako Foil Japan Cup held from April 2 to 4 held in Miyakojima.